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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a further one-year delay in federalization to Nov. 28, 2010?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of June 8, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

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'Up' Rules

Two live-action comedies were unable to bring down the animated adventure "Up."

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WHO may raise pandemic alert level to phase 6. **PAGE 3**

NMC summer enrollment increases by 23 percent. **PAGE 5**

DHS final rule: Nov. 28 federalization

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Unless amended by the U.S. Congress, the Nov. 28, 2009 start of transition to federal immigration in the CNMI is final as of May 28, 2009.

This comes after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security amended its interim final rule to reflect the delay in the

See DHS on Page 4

Fitial continues push for further delay

Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday issued a statement reiterating his push for a further delay in the implementation of the federalization law despite Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan's June 3 statement supporting the Nov. 28 start of transition.

The transition period, originally scheduled for June 1, was delayed by 180 days, which is the maximum allowed by Public Law 110-229.

Any further delay, as requested by Fitial, would need an act of Congress.

At the same time, Fitial released yes-

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THE GRADUATES

Hopwood Junior High School students wait for their turn to go up the stage to receive their diplomas during the commencement exercises yesterday. A total of 498 students graduated from Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao this school year, led by valedictorian Marjorie Ann M. Cuerdo and salutatorian Arlrose Atienza. ***See story on Page 2.***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'34 withdrew contributions, then returned to govt posts'

RELATED NEWS

'Point will come when Fund will not meet its obligations'
PAGE 2

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The internal auditor of the NMI Retirement Fund has disclosed that 34 Fund members who have withdrawn their contributions have been found back in government positions within a period that is believed to be less than the six-month gap required by law.

Esther Ada said some of these former Fund members may be double-dipping—receiving both pension benefits and gov-

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Palacios

OPA, OAG probe sought on $22M dialysis center

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said yesterday the House will ask the Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General to conduct an audit and/or investigation on the dialysis center, which ballooned from a $5 million to a $22 million project.

"We will ask OPA and OAG to investigate the matter, to determine why the project ended up costing taxpayers $22 million when it was only $5 million at the start," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*

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Local

'Point will come when Fund will not meet its obligations'

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The point will come when the CNMI Retirement Fund will no longer be able to meet its obligations to all its beneficiaries, according to the Retirement Fund's legal counsel yesterday, citing the testimony of an actuarial consultant.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, Viola Alepuyo said the Fund's actuarial consultant, Dylan Porter, testified in court that, with the CNMI government paying only 11 percent of the 37.39 percent it's supposed to be paying, plus the unplanned withdrawals in the Fund's investments, makes the Fund financially unsound.

"Effectively, what that means is there is going to be a point where the Retirement Fund will not meet its obligations to all beneficiaries," Alepuyo stressed.

The Fund called to the witness stand Porter, director and consulting actuary at Buck Consultants, during the hearing before Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo. Porter prepares the Fund's actuarial evaluation report that sets the government's employer contribution rate.

Porter, who was in San Francisco, testified through videoconference. Govendo used the federal court, which has the technology for the videoconference, for the hearing.

The proceeding was the second phase of the evidentiary hearing in connection with the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government. The second phase focuses on the "extraneous damages" the Fund incurred because of the government's continued failure to remit its employer contributions.

During the phase one hearing that began April 20, the Fund showed the court the documents it has showing how much the CNMI government owes the Fund.

"We calculated we were owed $215 million, but the government admitted to $213 million," Alepuyo said.

She said they called Porter so he could explain just how much the government owes the Fund, on top of not paying the actuarily determined rate and forcing the Fund to withdraw its investments in order to meet pension payments.

After Porter, the Fund will call several more witnesses, Alepuyo said.

See POINT on Page 4

Cuerdo, Atienza named top Hopwood graduates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Fourteen-year-old Marjorie Ann Cuerdo topped this year's batch of 498 graduates at Hopwood Junior High School, sweeping major awards and recognitions during yesterday's promotion ceremony.

Cuerdowasnamedtheschool's Board of Education awardee and the Principal's Leadership honoree for demonstrating outstanding academicexcellence throughout her stay at Hopwood.

MARJORIE ANN CUERDO
Board of Education Award

ARLROSE ATIENZA
Commissioner's Award

On Friday, she also bagged a number of special recognitions, including the prestigious President's Excellence medal and several subject awards.

Next school year, Cuerdo will be among freshmen students at Marianas High School

"I am so proud to get all these awards…and I will continue to do my best in high school," she told *Saipan Tribune* after the occasion yesterday.

In her message, the outstanding graduate vowed to use all the knowledge she gained from her mentors at Hopwood "to succeed in my future." She also lauded the sacrifices of her parents—Zenaida and Marco Antonio Cuerdo—and the efforts of her teachers.

Named second top student in the graduating class was Arlrose Atienza, who emerged as this year's Commissioner awardee.

The 13-year-old is the only child of Rosedel and Renato Atienza and will continue her high school at MHS.

Atienza was also a recipient of a number of special awards during Friday's recognition rites.

"I am so happy…and I thank my parents for all their hard work for me," she said.

Principal Christine T. Masga, along with board members and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, also recognized Frank Gu and Melody Margaret Johnson, who emerged first and second honorable mentions respectively.

Hopwood's Top 20 students included Cuerdo, Atienza, Ajette Joyce Manabat, John Paul Aglubat, Dayanara Flores, Kelly Demapan, Mon Alvin Morera, Julius Inocencio, Leila Hicking, Danica Bianca Guevarra, Angelo George Limes, Lee Anne Yarobwemal, Renzie Jyla Cunanan, Clariza Mae Magat, Royze Ann Banados, Kathleen Ann Dantic, Emelyn Feria, John Myrick Martin, Koryn Charmaine Aguon, and Jade Mangubat.

In her message, principal Masga said: "You have the key to your success. Take that key and carry it in your pocket everywhere you go. Learn from your memories and be responsible for your future…"

Yesterday's event was keynoted by Fred Camacho, a Troop-to-Teacher NMC graduate.

Zoning office entertains complaints

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Complaints about zoning will be addressed by the Saipan Zoning Office, instead of the practice of some individuals who go to media outlets for help then ask not to be identified.

Zoning Board chair Henry S. Hofschneider laughed off comments that zoning is creating a domino effect on businesses.

"Whoever said that, maybe it is making a domino effect on himself," Hofschneider said.

Several calls were made to

The *Saipan Tribune* has received a slew of complaints against the Zoning Office for allegedly being "insensitive" to their plight. The Zoning Office had been criticized in its enforcement of new zoning regulations on so-called "adult businesses," especially in the Garapan district.

Hofschneider said anybody can complain but it must be done through the proper channels.

He said the Zoning Office is merely implementing the law, so all businesses must comply.

He recalled that public hearings were conducted before the signing and approval of the new regulations but lamented the fact that only a few seemed interested in such hearings.

Meanwhile, the incoming Zoning Office administrator is scheduled to arrive next week, in time for the turnover ceremony on June 21.

Newly hired Victor Barrett earlier vowed to establish a closer relationship with members of the community in order to achieve the agency's goals.

WHO may raise pandemic alert level to phase 6

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The World Health Organization may soon raise the pandemic alert level from 5 to 6, according to the latest update on H1N1 flu released yesterday by the Department of Public Health.

Apparently, there have been concerns about whether it might be appropriate for WHO to change the phase.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said that raising the alert level to Phase 6 would indicate that a global pandemic is already underway.

She said this would suggest that the virus had spread widely but not that the H1N1 virus is more severe than had been described.

Shuchat explained that WHO's phase system is an indicator of spread and not of severity.

DPH's latest data showed that as of June 5, there were a total of 69 countries and 21,940 confirmed cases of H1N1, including 125 deaths.

The total confirmed cases in all 50 U.S. states reached 13,217, with 27 deaths.

The CNMI is still under alert level 5 and that there is no confirmed case of the virus here.

DPH report said it is uncertain at this time how serious or severe this novel H1N1 outbreak will be in terms of how many people infected will develop serious complications or die.

"At this time, most people who have become ill with novel H1N1 in the U.S. have recovered without requiring medical treatment and have experienced typical flu symptoms. The real uncertainty is the fall and how the novel H1N1 virus will affect the 2009-2010 flu season," the report said.

CDC anticipates that there will be more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths associated with this new virus.

"CDC is still learning about the severity and other epidemiological characteristics of this novel H1N1 virus. This information is important and will be taken into account when making recommendations with regard to vaccine and other preventive measures," DPH said.

Tudela tops plant category in Agri Fair...

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela was named the grand prize winner in the plant category of the 28th Annual Saipan Agricultural Fair held at the Civic Center Beach last Saturday.

Tudela earned 46 cumulative points by winning 11 first place votes among various fruits and vegetables entered in the competition.

He also took five second and four third places for total winnings of $545. His entries included 22 vegetables, 16 fruits, six root crops, and two nuts.

Although the points had already been tallied for all the entries, they are still considered unofficial results because it remains to be verified if the entries were actually grown by the winners.

The official winners will be announced during the award banquet on July 11.

Competition rules states that prior to the distribution of the cash and other awards, the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association, with the assistance of the Department of Land and Natural Resources-Division of Agricultural will verify if each winner is a farmer and a registered Saipan voter and/or a U.S. citizen and can prove that the winning entries registered in the person's name were in fact grown on that person's farm or garden.

The farm visits will be conducted within two weeks after the close of the Agricultural Fair. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

...as Guerrero tops animal category

Rancher Jack Guerrero brought some of his best cattle breeders to the 28th Annual Saipan Agricultural Fair and the effort paid off, with his entries winning the grand prize in the animal competition last Saturday.

Although a task force will still have to verify the entries, Guerrero enjoys a wide margin from the rest of the participating ranchers by compiling a total of 415 points.

Guerrero topped four categories that included local cow, Santa Gurtrudes bull, Santa Gertrudes cow and boar.

He also placed second in local bull category and third in chicken sports.

When asked how he keeps his grazing animals healthy and sustainable, Guerrero said, "It's not only about taking care of the cows, you must also take care of the grass. In a way, you maintain the good quality of the meat."

The best looking animal competition drew a total of 17 entries, with Steven Vanwinkle coming in second with a total of 405 points.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two cows are shown at the 28th Annual Saipan Agricultural Fair last Saturday.

Vanwinkle was first in turkey, second in chicken sports, third in local cow, Santa Gertrudes bull, billy local, nanny, and duck.

Jess Sablan is running third with 331 points, including first in local bull and nanny.

Completing the top five are Lufo Babauta (279), 4th; and Shane Cabrera (230), 5th.

The other entries with their total cumulative points were

- 6th, JM Guerrero (219)
- 7th, Matthew Aaron (216),
- 8th, Darlene Castro (182)
- 9th, Conrad Crisostomo (168)
- 10th, Merna Daly (160)
- 11th, Patrick Calvo (124)
- 12th, Ed Guerrero (93),
- 13th, Dave Camacho (85)
- 14th, Sonny Cabrera (84)
- 15th, Antonio Dela Cruz (49)
- 16th, Aliceo Castro (47)
- 17th, Bill Ada (45)

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Agriculture created yesterday a task force that would verify the winning entries. The task force will start their work today. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

BOE chair Blanco-Maratita to seek re-election

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The incumbent chairwoman of the CNMI State Board of Education, Lucy Blanco-Maratita, will run for another term during the general election this November.

Blanco-Maratita is serving her first four-year term with the board.

Yesterday, she admitted wanting to see more progress in Commonwealth public schools and is convinced that she can do more to realize these developments.

"I believe I can still do a lot more to improve our education," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Blanco-Maratita named three main areas where she wants to see improvements: career technology education, distance learning, and access to financial resources.

Although vocational programs are now being offered in public high schools, Blanco-Maratita emphasized the need to consider other apprenticeship programs for students.

"We want to make sure that we're offering other options to our students when they graduate from high school. Improving career technology education and offering more apprenticeship programs are a sure way to assist them," she said.

She also wants all public school children—whether on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota—to have access to the same quality education, services, and learning.

In this regard, she said schools must take advantage of the distance learning education offered by PSS such as video teleconferences and online courses.

PSS, which had nearly 11,000 students this school year, only had $34 million to work with this year, with most of the money going toward personnel costs.

"There's a need to improve access to financial resources and look at ways on how we can save and conserve, whether in energy or operation. PSS will also closely work with other agencies and institutions that can help bring additional money for our students in public schools," Blanco-Maratita said.

The terms of Blanco-Maratita and board vice chair Herman T. Guerrero will expire this year. The other board members are Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Marylou Ada, and Tanya King.

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US territories want fair treatment in federal health care reform

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has joined the governors of Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands in asking the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance to support a fair and equitable treatment of the U.S. offshore areas on a pending healthcare reform bill before it.

Among other things, the governors want an "immediate elimination of the Medicaid cap and the discriminatory FMAP rate for the territories."

FMAP stands for the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages.

The governors said these are essential preconditions to the development of full-fledged Medicaid programs in the offshore areas.

They also want Congress to provide appropriate safeguards and additional resources to allow offshore areas to comply with all new requirements involving the federal Medicaid program.

Reform proposals may include a major expansion of the Medicaid program as a key element in the effort to expand healthcare coverage to the uninsured, including the possibility of extending eligibility to all households up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

"This legislative initiative offers an historic opportunity to address and remedy current discriminatory treatment of U.S. citizens residing in the insular areas of the United States in the critical areas of federal healthcare policy," the governors told committee chair Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont) and ranking member Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) in a June 2 letter.

The draft bill is based on the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance's policy options paper released on May 14.

The governors said the bill could be introduced as early as this week, with hearings and markup scheduled for later this month.

The governors said Congress has over the years legislated incremental improvements in the Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Programs for insular areas, including temporary improvements most recently in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

But they said the quality and availability of healthcare in the offshore areas remain "severely disadvantaged" by the cap on federal Medicaid funds and the discriminatory matching requirements under the FMAP formula.

"Current arbitrary treatment of the offshore areas by the federal government has, in fact, contributed to much of the dysfunction in many of the territorial programs," the governors told Baucus and Grassley.

They said without parity of treatment with the states and fairer apportionment of federal healthcare funds, the territories have not had, and will not have, the resources to develop state-like healthcare programs for the benefit of their citizens in full compliance with Medicaid and other federal healthcare law.

WITHDREW

From Page 1

ernment salary at the same time.

The refund for these 34 members total $582,000 as of June 1, the board said in a meeting last week.

Ada said these 34 individuals are all from independent and autonomous agencies of the CNMI government. The number is expected to increase when the full review of all the other government agencies is completed next month.

Based on Public Law 13-16, a person who leaves government service and withdraws his retirement contributions cannot return to a government position within six months.

However, Fund administrator Mark Aguon pointed out that some agencies hired these individuals under the defined contribution plan, which was not taken into account when the law was created and passed in 2005.

Aguon admitted that the "practice" has a social impact on the government.

Board chair Juan T. Guerrero expressed disappointment that some members are using the Retirement Fund as their savings account.

"We need to communicate with the Legislature that the Fund is not something you can use as a savings account as what others are doing right now," he said.

Guerrero said this issue must be communicated with the Legislature so that lawmakers could come up with a measure that will address this concern.

He said the Office of Public Auditor should also have a role in checking this practice because it affects the financial stability of the government, which still owes the Fund over $200 million in unpaid contributions.

Fund comptroller David Demapan has reported that at present, the unfunded pension liability to members stands at $565.6 million as of May 31.

"We have now an unfunded liability of $565.6 million which means that for every dollar that the Fund owes the beneficiaries, only 36 cents is funded and 64 cents is unfunded," Demapan reported to the board.

He said the Fund's ongoing $213 million lawsuit against the CNMI government will partly solve this deficiency but the only way to totally wipe out the unfunded liability is if the employer contribution is raised to 37 percent—as recommended by the Fund's actuarial consultant.

At present, the central government's contribution rate is at 11 percent, pursuant to a new public law.

Last week, the board reported that a formal out-of-court settlement was offered by the Fitial administration but the trustees turned this down during an executive session.

OPA, OAG

From Page 1

yesterday.

He said despite reprogramming funds to the $22 million building from various projects, the facility contains mostly big, beautiful administrative offices and is not being used for its original purpose of housing a new dialysis center.

Three years after the construction of the building has been completed, no audit has been conducted on the project to account for every taxpayer dollar spent on it, he added.

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan said they expect to open the dialysis center in August.

Palacios reiterated that the House will be conducting a formal legislative inquiry on the new dialysis center.

He said the legislative inquiry will be much more than a recent discovery that the Food and Drug Administration certification for the new facility's reverse osmosis water system was forged.

"If federal funds were spent on the project, then maybe the Federal Bureau of Investigation can get involved," Palacios added.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, asked Untalan and other health officials during a budget hearing on the Department of Public Health on Friday whether DPH needs additional funding for the opening of the dialysis center.

At this point, Untalan told lawmakers that the FDA certification of the reverse osmosis water system was "forged" by an individual previously connected with the U.S.-based Severn Trent.

Severn Trent supplied the reverse osmosis water system unit to Saipan Ice, which was one of the subcontractors of AIC Marianas, the main contractor for the construction of the new dialysis building in Garapan. Both Saipan Ice and AIC Marianas said they're not aware of the forgery.

DPH has only 14 dialysis stations for about 100 dialysis patients, while the new facility-once operational-can accommodate up to 24 stations.

DHS

From Page 1

implementation of federal immigration from June 1, 2009 to Nov. 28, 2009, after the 180-day maximum delay allowed by Public Law 110-229.

The technical amendment to the DHS rule took effect on May 28, upon its publication in the Federal Register.

This came two months after Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced on March 31 the 180-day delay in the transition program's effective date.

DHS, however, has yet to issue regulations on the CNMI-only transitional worker program and the investor program, which the CNMI government and businesses have been waiting for.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said a further delay in federalization is needed to ensure that China and Russia are included in the federal visa waiver program and for DHS to implement adequate border control. ***(See sidebar)***

Any further delay in the transition date will need an act of Congress.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that, while there's no official word yet from the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, "we believe there is support for a legislative delay."

The subcommittee, chaired by Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), held a May 19 oversight hearing on the implementation of P.L. 110-229 or the federalization law in the CNMI.

On Jan. 16, 2009, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection of DHS published an interim final rule amending CBP regulations to replace the current Guam Visa Waiver Program with a new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program and establishing six ports of entry in the CNMI.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 extends U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI and creates a Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

The interim final rule specified that CBP would begin operating this program on the date set by law, June 1, 2009. The interim final rule further specified that the existing Guam Visa Waiver Program for travel to Guam would remain in effect until June 1, 2009.

On March 31, 2009, the DHS secretary announced that she will delay the program's effective date to Nov. 28, 2009.

"This technical amendment effectuates this delay by changing the implementation date of the interim final rule from June 1, 2009 to November 28, 2009," DHS said.

This means by Nov. 28, DHS would begin operating ports-of-entry in the CNMI for immigration inspection of arriving aliens and establishing departure controls for certain flights leaving the CNMI.

FITIAL

From Page 1

terday a copy of his supplemental statement to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife.

He expressed disappointment with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's witness – Dr. Richard Barth—for not providing specific information to the subcommittee at the May 19 oversight hearing on the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI.

Fitial said DHS could not provide basic facts such as sources of necessary funding.

"Until more information is available about the department's plans, the governor believes it is premature to conclude that a delay is unnecessary," he said in a separate statement yesterday.

On Nov. 28, all CNMI laws regarding immigration will be preempted by P.L. 110-229.

Fitial said if the federal government is not fully prepared on that date to assume its responsibilities, the CNMI and its residents will be without the necessary border controls for the islands' security.

'Leakage'

The governor took issue with the oral presentation of DHS's Barth, who said that DHS might revise its current position with respect to the inclusion of China and Russia in the visa waiver program if the department "could feel comfortable that there would be no onward leakage, if you will, to Hawaii or any other port into the other ports of the 50 U.S. states."

"The Commonwealth believes that this statement reflects a serious misunderstanding regarding the Commonwealth's border protection system," said the governor.

In his supplemental statement to the subcommittee chaired by Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Fitial said no "leakage" has occurred or could occur into the 50 states by aliens admitted into the CNMI under the Commonwealth's procedures.

He said the CNMI controls all persons entering and exiting the islands with 100 percent passport verification recorded digitally.

"No one can travel from the Commonwealth to the United States without a passport and visa that meet United States standards. Everyone who travels from the Commonwealth must enter via a port in the United States controlled by the Department of Homeland Security," Fitial said.

Guam is the only U.S. jurisdiction to which persons from the CNMI can fly by direct, nonstop service and the existing immigration controls enforced there by DHS, both with respect to entry and exit, provide further and redundant assurances that no alien leaving the CNMI can gain illegal entry into the United States, he added.

Not giving up

In a statement yesterday, Fitial said he supports a legislative amendment to the law in order to work on preserving the CNMI's access to vital China and Russia tourism markets. The governor said the CNMI is working with Guam to achieve this result.

Without continued access to these markets, the CNMI will lose about 20 percent of its visitor industry.

"We cannot give up on these markets," Fitial said.

The governor believes that Bordallo and most members of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife support this objective.

He said he will make every effort to persuade the Department of Homeland Security to change its regulations so that the CNMI-Guam joint visa waiver program will include China and Russia.

Fitial continues to urge Sablan to support this effort to avoid further damage to the CNMI economy. In the past, Sablan has expressed strong support for maintaining these markets.

But as of May 28, DHS's interim final rule was amended to reflect a Nov. 28 start of transition. The amended rule also said the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which excludes Chinese and Russian tourists, will take effect on Nov. 28. ***(See main story)***

Fitial and Sablan met after the subcommittee's May 19 hearing in Washington, D.C. and agreed to ask the subcommittee to send a set of detailed questions to DHS regarding its plans for funding and staffing the six ports of entry in the CNMI after Nov. 28.

The governor said he does not know whether these questions were in fact submitted by the subcommittee to DHS.

POINT

From Page 2

"We are going to attempt to show to the court how much the Retirement Fund has lost because it did not have the opportunity to invest the $215 million," she said.

Fund board of trustees chair Juan T. Guerrero said Porter made it clear in his testimony that if the government does not take care of its liability now, it would cost more in the future and taxpayers will have to shoulder that.

"It is still too early in this proceeding. But hopefully again we can prove our claims—the additional monetary damages that is owed the Retirement Fund," Guerrero said.

Guerrero reiterated his previous position that the Fund's concern now is to finish the lawsuit and then negotiate a payment plan with the local government.

"Again it is not in our intention to bankrupt the government. It is our intention to find resources that the government has in order to pay its obligations to the Retirement Fund. The court will determine what is due the Retirement Fund," he said.

"When that is set, we're willing to come back and sit down. We are still discussing but as far as what is being offered, there is no monetary settlement on the table," Guerrero added.

NMC summer enrollment increases by 23 percent

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College posted a significant increase of 23 percent in this year's summer enrollment—from the previous summer record of 201 students to 248 as of yesterday.

The Office of NMC President Dr. Carmen Fernandez said the summer enrollment includes an increase of international students by 45 percent compared to the same period in 2008.

The increase in resident students, meantime, is 17 percent from last year's.

The number of summer enrollees is expected to slightly increase within the next few weeks as the college will be conducting a second session, called "Session II."

NMC, as of yesterday, is still registering students for that session, which will begin on July 6.

Saipan Tribune learned that of the 248 summer enrollees this year, 68 are nonresidents while 180 are resident students. Enrollment in summer 2008 posted 47 nonresidents and 154 resident enrollees.

Fernandez

"We are pleased to see that many people are turning to NMC this summer to advance personally and professionally," Fernandez told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that NMC is continuing with its recruitment efforts and wants to remind everyone that it's not too late to apply and register for the second summer session, which begins next month.

"Our recruitment team is also planning a financial aid workshop to help students complete their financial aid forms and scholarship applications so that they can maximize the financial assistance that is available to them," added Fernandez.

More details about this financial aid workshop will be announced later this week, according to the president.

Besides the continuing recruitment efforts, Fernandez emphasized that NMC is fully accredited even while it is on show-cause status with the accrediting commission.

Summer Session I, which is composed of six weeks, began on May 26 and will last through July 2 while Session II is scheduled for July 6 through Aug. 14.

Courses offered this summer include certain subjects in behavioral and social sciences, business, computer technology, English language institute, literature and speech, mathematics, nursing, and sciences.

The NMC Fall 2009 semester will begin in August 2009.

Tudela: More training for cops

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela wants CNMI police officers to undergo more training to improve the department's services to the community.

"I believe in training; the more training, the better for the department," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune*.

In order for DPS to be more effective, he said the department should have better trained police officers and better technology.

One of the things the commissioner wants to see is improved traffic services.

He said that by next week, 30 police officers, including six from Guam, are going to undergo basic traffic investigation training at the Pacific Islands Club on Saipan.

Tinian and Rota will each be sending six police officers for the 80-hour two-week course.

Tudela said two instructors from Florida will be coming for the training, funded through a federal grant.

The commissioner also said that Sgt. James Deleon Guerrero, the officer in charge of the DPS Communication and Technology Section, is currently upgrading the records system in the department by replacing the old records management through computerized system.

In a separate interview, Deleon Guerrero said one aspect of the project involves installing a new vehicle motor registration system.

"We are now automating it. Before, we had to order forms. Now it will be automated. Before, we had to put the files on folders, but now it will be computerized," he said.

Filipino workers in the NMI are leading sponsors of 'Tuloy Aral'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipinos in the CNMI remain the leading contributor to the Philippine government's "Tuloy Aral" program, according to Welfare Officer Reynaldo Tayag during the joint celebration of the 111th Philippine Independence Day and Migrant Workers' Day last Sunday morning at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Tayag said a total of 350 students benefited from the support provided by Filipino overseas workers worldwide to the continuing education program. These include 140 students with 91 sponsors from Saipan.

"My dear sponsors, let us continue to touch the lives of the sons and daughters of less fortunate overseas Filipino contract workers. Let us be part of the children's dreams and aspirations," Tayag urged some 300 Filipinos during Sunday's ceremony.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration conceptualized the Tuloy Aral program in 2004 as an intervention for children of less fortunate OFWs. The program has evolved into a public-private sector partnership.

"The better off Filipino workers and expatriate, and Filipino community organizations like you, once again have shown a truly Filipino spirit of volunteerism and charity. Through your donations, you have sent hundreds of children to elementary and high school and even college," Tayag said.

In her Independence Day message, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said the establishment of the Philippines as Asia's first republic in 1898 is a democratic legacy that Filipinos should rightly be proud of and strive to further strengthen.

"The Philippines has advanced steadily toward greater growth, guided by a common vision for a better shared future and powered by the sinew and might of the hardworking and dedicated Filipino," said the president's message as read by Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo.

The actual celebration of Philippine Independence Day is on Friday, June 12.

This year's theme is "Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan, which the president said "underscores the challenges to and the responsibilities of our generation to bring to full fruition the ideals that animated our forefather' noble efforts."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, in a separate message read by Consul Belinda M. Ante, said the country has gone a long way as a democracy but still has a long to go as it pursues peace, progress and prosperity.

"The Filipino-American community—with whom the Philippines is bound by common values, shared heritage and mutual aspiration—continues to be our partner for growth," Romulo said.

OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon said overseas Filipino workers are empowered to improve their lives through financial literacy, mobilization of savings, and the building and enhancement of entrepreneurial skills.

"By striving to secure their future, they help mirror the face of our independence," she said.

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Ocean shipper Matson hikes fuel surcharge again

HONOLULU (AP)— Matson Navigation Co. is raising its fuel surcharge by 8 percentage points for its Guam/Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia service from 21.5 percent to 29.5 percent, effective July 5.

It will impose the same surcharge increase for its Hawaii service, boosting the rate from 20 percent to 28 percent.

Matson, a subsidiary of Alexander & Baldwin Inc., announced the rate increase on Friday, saying the increases stem from rising fuel-related costs. The hikes follow two recent adjustments, the latest was announced last month and is effective June 21.

The three increases follow six consecutive decreases in 2008, with the last taking effective in November.

Dave Hoppes, Matson's senior vice president for ocean services, said he had hoped that fuel costs would moderate, but just the opposite has occurred.

The rate increase is expected to further boost the prices of commodities on the islands, which rely on freight services to transport goods into and from the CNMI.

Joyner and Tudela are Chacha's top graduates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Zalika Joyner and Roman Tudela emerged top graduates of the Chacha Oceanview Junior High School this year after receiving the highest academic honors during the school's promotions ceremony on campus yesterday.

Joyner was named the school's Board of Education awardee and recipient of seven other special honors, including the gold medal for President's Excellence Award and subject awards Best in Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies.

She is the daughter of Hilda and Sam Joyner, both public school educators.

"It feels really good…because I worked hard for it!" she told *Saipan Tribune* after the ceremony.

Joyner admitted that her journey at Chacha Oceanview has been full of experiences and challenges, both negative and positive.

"Some of those challenges would not have been accomplished without the help and support of my parents," she said, adding that she's truly grateful to them for exposing her to the diversity of the world and for creating a sort of balance of self-discipline within herself.

"I do believe that knowledge is power and it doesn't matter how much power you have unless you have a mind to use that power the right way. Though this may seem like the formidable end, I would like to think of it as a new beginning and a chance to start fresh, literally," she said.

ZALIKA JOYNER
Board of Education Award

ROMAN TUDELA
Commissioner's Award

Joyner is an active participant in academic competitions both here and abroad. She was a member of the CNMI delegate to various national competitions like the Thespian, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, and Junior National Forensic Leagues.

Roman Tudela, this year's recipient of the Commissioner's Award, also got special recognitions including the President's Excellence Award and the National Honor Junior Society Recognition. He is the son of Tona and Roman Tudela Jr.

"Junior high was very interesting. It changed my life for the better, and prepared me for the future. I will always remember the times I had with them and will miss everything," he told *Saipan Tribune* after the ceremony, assuring that he will strive harder in high school.

Tudela will continue his secondary education at Saipan Southern High School next school year.

Named as the Principal's Leadership awardee was Querico Borja Jr.

Besides Joyner and Tudela, other top ten members of the graduating class were Anna Ada, Kimberly Agulto, Jolisa Pangelinan, Tasha Dela Cruz, Reignna Ngiramolau, Kiona Mendiola, Kelsey George, and Janet Kaipat.

Chacha Oceanview Junior High School principal Vincent Dela Cruz, along with Board of Education members and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, promoted this year 137 eight graders to high school.

Majority of the graduates will be enrolling at Kagman High School next school year.

Yesterday's event was keynoted by police officer Jason Tarkong and was also attended by Rep. Ed Salas and Fredrick Deleon Guerrero.

MONETH DEPOSA
Chacha Oceanview Junior High School's top ten pose for a picture after being given their awards.

FSA county committee seeks farmer or rancher nominees

ON THE NET
- http://www.fsa.usda.gov
- http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce

MAITE, Guam—Farmer and rancher candidate nominations for local Farm Service Agency county committees will begin June 15, according to Tom Camacho, executive director for USDA's Farm Service Agency for Guam and CNMI yesterday.

The nomination period continues through Aug. 3, 2009. Elections take place this fall.

"I encourage all producers to participate in the county committee election process by nominating candidates by the August 3rd deadline," said Camacho. "We are counting on as much participation as possible, because county committees are an important link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We have seen a trend in recent years of increased nominations of minority and women producers and we hope that will continue."

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate.

Producers may also nominate themselves, and organizations representing minority and women may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce.

Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6. The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 7, 2009.

Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2010.

Find FSA news releases on the agency's Web site at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov. ***(PR)***

Leach nominated to chair humanities agency

The Federation of State Humanities Councils, the national association of the state humanities councils, has endorsed President Obama's decision, announced last week, to nominate James Leach, a former 15-term congressman from Iowa, as the next chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Calling the nomination an "important and timely" selection, Esther Mackintosh, president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, stated, "Mr. Leach's long and distinguished career in public service and his evident commitment to the improvement of civic life make him an ideal person to lead the NEH at this critical time. He clearly recognizes the key role of the humanities in helping citizens in communities across the nation understand not only our history but our current circumstances."

Leach

Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA), chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for NEH, said that Leach will " … work with the state agencies and make sure we have a broad distribution of the humanities throughout the country."

While in Congress, Leach served as chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services (1995-2001), a senior member of the House Committee on International Relations, and Chairman of the Committee's Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs (2001-2006). Since 2007, he has taught at Princeton University and served as the interim director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In 2004 Leach co-founded, along with Rep. David Price (D-NC), the bipartisan Congressional Humanities Caucus to increase awareness of the importance of the humanities in public life. He received the 2005 Sidney R. Yates Award for Distinguished Public Service to the Humanities from the National Humanities Alliance in recognition of his work as a champion for the humanities.

An important component of the agency Leach will be heading are the 56 state humanities councils, established to extend the reach of the NEH to communities in every state, the five territories and commonwealths, and the District of Columbia. The state humanities councils offer programs that support families and teachers, provide resources for community institutions, and bring citizens together to collectively address issues of importance.

Like the other state councils, the NMI Council for the Humanities is a 501 (c) (3) independent organization; it was established in the CNMI in 1991 as a grants-making corporation. The NMI Council is managed by three staff members and governed by a 13-member board of volunteer directors drawn from academia and the public.

The Council conducts and funds a variety of humanities programs that engage people of all ages in community and civic life, and if offers other special programs that nurture creativity, promote dialogue, and spark critical thinking.

For more information on the Council and its work, visit their website at www.nmihumanities.org or call them at (670) 235-4785. ***(PR)***

Pastor Bud to preach at Saipan's IUMC

Immanuel United Methodist Church's Pastor JJ Matsumoto has invited former Pastor Bud Carroll to preach this Sunday at a special service honoring retiring Church Lay Leader Cyndy Tice. Pastor Bud, who served IUMC from July 2003-July 2007, now lives in retirement in Hong Kong.

Cyndy Tice is known to many throughout the CNMI as a Nursing Instructor at NMC; an active leader in the Girl Scouts and member of PAWS and the CNMI Yacht Club. After more than 10 years in the CNMI, she is retiring to New Mexico.

Prior to his coming to Saipan (2003-2008), Pastor Bud served 38 years as a missionary and staff of The United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries. Former Director of TUMC's China Program and coordinator of TUMC's work in Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, he also served with the Methodist Church, Hong Kong and as Director of The Amity Foundation's Hong Kong Office. Based in Nanjing, Amity is a Chinese Christian-initiated social service agency doing development throughout China.

IUMC welcomes the many friends of both Cyndy Tice and Pastor Bud to this Sunday's worship service and retirement celebration. For further information, call Pastor JJ Matsumoto at 322-6158. ***(PR)***

Rota Island charters nominated for PATA Gold Award

An inventive tourism campaign for the island of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands has been nominated to receive one of the Pacific Asia Travel Association Gold Awards.

The Rota Island Charters program conducted in 2008 by Kinki Nippon Tourist and Pacific Development Inc. had been nominated by the Marianas Visitors Authority for the awards, which recognize "exceptional achievement in a variety of endeavors, bringing acclaim to the best the Asia Pacific's travel industry has to offer."

Over a year's period beginning April 2008, the program brought in 28 charter flights and 3,700 visitors from Japan to the tropical island, pumping over $2 million into the island economy.

"MVA recognizes the extremely valuable contribution that PDI and KNT have made to tourism in the Northern Marianas as a result of the imaginative Rota Island Charter promotion," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio in his endorsement letter to PATA.

Other agencies recognized for their contribution to the success of the program include the Governor's Office, the 16th CNMI Legislature, the Municipality of Rota and its Mayor, Commonwealth Ports Authority, CNMI Public School System, Historic Preservation Office, Rota local cooks and caterers, and many residents of Rota island. The Northern Mariana Islands Council for Arts and Culture also helped with the opening of the Chamorro Village, featuring live cultural demonstrations.

With the success of the first group of charters, a second series of 30 charters is scheduled for the 2009-2010 season, a result the people of Rota look forward to.

"The Rota Island Charters program is a model for public-private partnerships that can help grow tourism in the Northern Marianas," said Tenorio. "We congratulate all the parties involved for working together to make this program a success for the beautiful island of Rota. They have a lot to be proud of."

According the PATA, the winning projects set industry standards for excellence and innovation, serving as examples for others to follow. This year, in addition to the 25 Gold Awards, PATA will present up to four Grand Awards for "best of show" entries in the following broad categories: Environment, Education & Training, Heritage & Culture and Marketing Campaign. Entries are to be judged by travel industry experts. All award recipients will be honored during a special luncheon at PATA Travel Mart 2009, in Hangzhou, China in September.

According to PATA, winning a PATA Gold Award greatly enhances the winner's marketing and public relations profile. The winning entries will be featured in the PTM Daily newspaper and a number of PATA press releases, which PATA says will attract a lot of positive international travel industry media coverage. MVA has won previous awards from PATA for promotional ideas and campaigns, including a Gold Award for creating and re-branding the NMI in the Japanese market and elsewhere with the Saipanda campaign. ***(MVA)***

$20M road projects eyed by year's end

The Department of Public Works aims to obligate over $20 million federally funded highway projects in the Commonwealth by the end of the year.

DPW Secretary Diego Songsong told *Saipan Tribune* that since last year they received six road construction approvals from the Federal Highway Administration.

"In addition to that, we also received approval to proceed with the design of Route 36 and to develop an immediate right-of-way manual," Songsong said.

As of last year, he said, DPW was able to obligate over $8 million of federal highway funds.

"We're targeting that maybe, if not the end of this summer, the end of this year, we will be able to obligate over $20 million…that's only for federal highway funded projects," the official said.

Songsong commended DPS Technical Services staff under director Joseph Inos Jr. for "really working hard."

"Considering the small staff we have at DPW, we are able to move [not just federally funded] highway projects but also locally funded projects," Songsong said.

DPW recently announced it is expecting to issue in the next few days a notice to proceed with the construction of two federally funded multi-million road projects on Tinian and Rota.

Songsong said they will be issuing to the awarded companies the notice to proceed with the Route 201 construction and improvement project on Tinian and the Route II Sabana Road and drainage improvement project on Rota. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Oleai Elementary PTSA meeting today

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting today, June 9, 2009, 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Free Red Cross training opportunity

Typhoon season is here! In preparation for this typhoon season, the American Red Cross will be conducting classes this Saturday, June 13, for all individuals interested in becoming volunteers. The two classes that will be taught this weekend are "Fulfilling our Mission" and "Introduction to Disaster Services."

The classes will be held from 9am to 11:30am at the American Red Cross Office on Airport Road. For more information or to sign up for the class, contact J.D. Tenorio at 234-3459.

In 1995 Public Law 9-63 was passed. This law states that all government employees who are Red Cross volunteers may be granted up to 15 days of administrative leave once activated to help with a relief operation. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule for June

June 10, 2009 *LIVE* – Replays 6/14 and 6/15 @ 7-8 pm

■ CNMI Republican Party Primary: GOP officials and Republican Party gubernatorial candidates reps.

June 17, 2009 *LIVE* – Replays 6/21 and 6/25 @ 7-8 pm

■ Amnesty for Pesticide Use: Division of Environmental Quality officials

Shows Air on KSPN Channel 2. *LIVE* Text: 285-META; *LIVE* Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Green Meadow School announcement

A. Summer School Program starts on:

■ June 8 – July 3, 2009 (First Session)

■ July 6 – July 31, 2009 (Second Session)

B. SY- 2009- 2010- opens on August 10, 2009

Green Meadow School (Dandan) is now open for:

■ Summer School Program which begins on July 6 - 31, 2009

■ SY 2009-2010 – K-3 only

■ Daycare and After school care

For inquiries call 235-2185/6452. ***(PR)***

Korean Cultural Center offers lessons

The Korean Cultural Center has started offering English-speaking people Korean language school programs. The curriculum consists of five courses—Basic Korean Language, Employee's Korean Language, Traveler's Korean Language, Korean as Second Language 1, KSL 2.

The Korean Cultural Center will be giving away for free some of the lessons' electronic files.

For more information, contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or e-mail at korean2221@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '89 reunion events

The Marianas High School Class of 1989 is inviting all MHS 89ers to its 20TH class reunion activities.

■ Reunion Mass: Friday, June 12, 2009, at the Kristo Rai Church , at 6pm.

■ Reunion Banquet: Saturday, June 13, 2009, Pacific Islands Club, from 6pm to 11pm, at $25 per person. ***PR)***

Laser training at FDM today

The U.S. military will be conducting HSB-25 laser training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, June 9, from 11am to 5pm.

Due to this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operation section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF single side band radio on 52050, or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

MMAC team captains' meeting tomorrow

The Marianas March Against Cancer committee is reminding all team captains that the final close out meeting for this year's event is tomorrow, June 10, at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Each team received an electronic evaluation form via e-mail. Fill in the evaluation form, print and bring it to the meeting. If the team captain or a team representative cannot attend the meeting, submit a electronic copy *before* the team captains' meeting to Reina Camacho at reinacamacho@gmail.com and Tara White at tara670@hotmail.com. Any additional money raised after the midnight collection deadline may be submitted during this meeting. Although the deadline for team's incentive prize orders is not until June 30, teams may also submit the orders at this time.

The MMAC main committee's final meeting will be Thursday, June 11. The location will be announced at a later time. ***(PR)***

SOFTWARE WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College faculty and staff attend a workshop to learn about TracDat, a software package that assists with the management of the assessment-based portion of undergraduate academic program review. The workshop was taught by Paul DeSante, a professional services consultant for Nuventiv, LLC. The employment of TracDat is not only part of the college's accreditation efforts, but the software will also assist the college to continuously improve its services.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & \INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0142
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
RAMON T. METTAO and SURINE N. METTAO	:	
Defendants.	:	

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 9th day of May, 2009:

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

June 8, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes
      a. May 13, 2009
      b. May 20, 2009

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
   1. Financial Report-CDA
   2. Legal Counsel's Report

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
   1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
   2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
   3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
   4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
      a. PTI Services, Inc. – QC Application
      b. SandCastle Saipan, LLC Benefits

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Lizama, Ada earn top MVA employee awards

Acting chief accountant/accountant IV (supervisor) Joaquin Lizama and statistical specialist I David Ada have earned top employee awards from Marianas Visitors Authority for their exceptional service at the tourism bureau over the last year.

At MVA's annual Employee Recognition Ceremony during May Tourism Month, Lizama was awarded the 2009 Leadership Award and was recognized for 20 years service. This is the third time in his career at MVA to receive the Leadership Award.

"I feel great—and proud—to be a part of the MVA team!" Lizama said of his two awards.

Other managerial nominees for the Leadership Award were Community Program manager Martin Duenas, Roads Grounds Maintenance branch manager Tom Calvo of Rota, acting Roads & Grounds Maintenance branch manager/administrative specialist II Vida Borja of Tinian, deputy managing director Judy Torres, and managing director Perry Tenorio.

MVA named Ada as 2009 Employee of the Year from a pool of four quarterly nominees, including marketing specialist III Hiroko Tenorio, marketing specialist Larry John Deleon Guerrero, and tradesman Anthony Reyes of Tinian.

"I believe that the other nominees work just as hard as I did, and they too should be honored," said Ada. "It feels great that management acknowledges my commitment and dedication to the agency."

"I'm very proud of our entire team," said MVA managing director Tenorio after the May 22 ceremony. "I wish more people could see the dedication these guys have. Our recognition ceremony is just one small way to celebrate them and show appreciation for their hard work."

The two awardees also encouraged the community to make a personal effort to help visitors feel welcomed and enjoy their visit to the Northern Marianas.

"If you see a tourist, give them a warm *hafa adai* and *tirow*!" said Ada.

"Let's work together and promote our local culture, because 'tourism is everybody's business,'" echoed Lizama.

The awardees were selected based on job knowledge, quality of work, cooperation, problem solving skills, dependability, initiative, planning and organizing, judgment, and oral and written communication skills. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting chief accountant/accountant IV (supervisor) Joaquin Lizama, second from left, receives the Leadership Award from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio and MVA board members B.K. Park and Yoichi Matsumura during the MVA employee recognition ceremony on May 22, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Statistical specialist I David Ada, with plaque, is named Employee of the Year during Marianas Visitors Authority's employee recognition ceremony on May 22, 2009. From left are MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, Ada, and MVA board members B.K. Park and Yoichi Matsumura.

Beautify CNMI selects new committee chairs

During their regular meeting on June 4, 2009, Beautify CNMI partners brainstormed on projects for 2009 and selected chairs to head four committees.

Joe Kaipat of Division of Environmental Quality and Kathy Yuknavage of Mariana Islands Nature Alliance are to co-chair the Solid Waste Committee, the goals of which are to increase the percentage of solid waste recyclables collected, reduce littering, and remove solid waste from local beaches, roads, and villages.

The Solid Waste Committee has plans to develop an adopt-a-spot program in conjunction with a marine debris removal and recycling campaign.

"In the next year we want to take the success we've had with keeping Wing Beach clean and spread it to at least seven other beaches," explained Yuknavage. "We have plans to work with the community putting recycling and trash bins next to some of the most popular beaches on Saipan."

Angelo Villagomez of the Rotary Club of Saipan, Ronnie Rogers of Historic Preservation Office, and Kathleen Hermann of Division of Environmental Quality will co-chair the Restoration Committee, which will focus on re-vegetation projects and maintaining historical sites.

The committee plans to continue work on the Laulau Revegetation Project started by the CNMI Watershed Group in 2005. They also want to start a volunteer corps that will maintain local historical areas.

Dr. Dan Lamar of FHP Saipan will chair the Parks & Trails Committee, which seeks to create a system of local, state, and national parks under a Commonwealth Parks System.

ON THE NET

http://www.beautifycnmi.org

"A Commonwealth Parks System connected by a series of trails would be a great draw for tourists," according to Lamar. "It would also attract professionals who look at quality of life issues when deciding where they want to practice their profession."

Laurie Peterka of Practical Solutions and local student Tyler Yoshimoto were named as the co-chairs of a new Beautify CNMI Committee that will launch a campaign uniting youth, the community, artists, and businesses to combat graffiti.

"This is something that I've been working on with the ISK8 Society for quite some time and I'm really excited to make it a part of Beautify CNMI," said Peterka.

All of the coalition partners agreed that youth education and development through coalition building and partnerships should be an integral part of Beautify CNMI.

"It is so important to work with the kids," said Hopwood Junior High School teacher Kimberly Vaillancourt.

Beautify CNMI! is a coalition of concerned citizens, private groups, and government entities united to enhance the CNMI's natural beauty and foster community pride in its residents and visitors. The coalition was a recipient of a 2007 EPA Environmental Award and received a Certificate of Commendation from the United States Congress in 2009. For more information visit them online at http://www.beautifycnmi.org. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 9, 1999

Regional airline pushed

Legislators from the Northern Marianas and Palau have asked support from the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union to push a proposed regional airline for small islands largely affected by the downsizing of existing commercial carriers. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, who chairs the group's council meeting being held here, made a strong pitch yesterday for the plan in hopes to sway to its favor powerful member countries such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines. Noting that air travel is the only means to gather members of the legislative organization in one site, the CNMI senator said most countries belonging to APPU are heavily dependent on tourism industry as their economic backbone.

Legislators want American Memorial Park back

Local lawmakers are seeking control of the American Memorial Park in a move that will remove federal money in the upkeep and maintenance of the park grounds and facilities. The Senate has passed a measure that will authorize and empower the governor to request the U.S. Department of the Interior to transfer administration of the park to the CNMI government. Senate Bill 11-126 or the American Memorial Park Transfer Act of 1999 has been tossed to the House Natural Resources Committee before it heads to the floor for voting. Its passage followed the signing into law of an earlier legislation setting aside some $2 million from local funds for park improvement project.

June 9, 2000

Refine business reform proposal

The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Program will amend HB 12-39 or the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act to fine-tune several provisions that its chair described as "problematic" following the first in a series of public hearings yesterday. REDP chair, Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, said at the same time that the comprehensive measure will not create jobs for locals as it will provide only easier access for businesses to hire and retain nonresident workers. Committee members also cited the need to address concerns raised on the legislation, underscoring the importance to reach a compromise on the issue while striking the delicate balance between the business sector and the community in general.

Japanese couple robbed inside Hafadai Hotel

Seventy-seven-year-old Seiichi Higa and his wife Hatsu, 74, just came to Saipan last Saturday to visit the island that they have come to love. Little did they know that their brief vacation will turn out to be a nightmare. The Higa couple were part of the Japanese delegation which arrived on the island on June 3 for the CNMI-Okinawa Friendship Memorial gathering. They left Saipan yesterday afternoon bringing with them a sad and frightening experience. On June 7 the Department of Public Safety received a call at around 9:50 a.m. to report a robbery at Room 503 where the Higa couple were staying. Two unidentified men held up the hotel guests and fled away with $227 in cash, according to DPS Spokesperson Rose Ada.

June 9, 2003

Palacios being groomed for CUC chair post

Velma Ann Palacios, who has just been appointed member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board of Directors, is being eyed as "most fitting" to assume the highest post on the board. Palacios, 33, who joined the board in early April, currently heads the body's new committee on policy and bylaws. It was Palacios herself who had moved during her first board attendance to have the committee created, saying it is necessary to ensure efficient operations at the CUC. According to CUC board member Joaquin Borja of Tinian, who was earlier viewed as having his sights on the chairmanship, Palacios "has the educational background and work experience" necessary for the post.

Illegal clearing of land results in $5K fine

The Coastal Resources Management Office has fined a Guam resident who maintains parcel of land near Agingan Beach after he allegedly failed to conduct corrective actions after being cited earlier this year for removing vegetation near the shoreline without a permit. CRMO director Joaquin D. Salas ordered Puranchand D. Hemlani of Hagatna, Guam, to pay the CNMI Treasury $5,000. Salas also directed Hemlani to implement erosion control measures approved by the Division of Environmental Quality.

Island Snapshots

"A milestone passed, new things begun, dreams as shining as the sun, a goal achieved, a victory won! That's Graduation."
—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

CONGRATULATIONS!
Congratulations to Albert Duenas and Judith Cabrera on your graduation from Kagman High School. We love you and we're so proud of you both on your accomplishments." With so much love, Your parents and the whole family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HALL OF FAMER
Pierce Transit's chief of Public Safety Rod Baker, left, along with Joan Cormany, manager of Physical Security and Records, right, presents Elvy Sablan, daughter of Jose C. Sablan and Magdalena T. Sablan (from the island of Saipan), the American Police Hall of Fame Award on June 2, 2009. Sablan was instrumental in the arrest of individuals car prowling at the Tacoma Dome Station. In addition to her reward, she received a lapel medal and pin in Lakewood, Washington.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Pierce Country Sheriff Deputy Andrew Guerrero, Elvy Sablan, and Deputy Doug Pressel pose for a souvenir photo in Tacoma, Washington.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INTERIOR SCHOLAR
Happy birthday to Denn, who will celebrate his 17th birthday tomorrow, June 10, and congratulations on receiving the Department of the Interior's scholarship to the Junior Statesmen of America Summer Program at Georgetown University! Have a safe trip and we love you very much. Love, Deanna, Paul Jr., Pauline, Mom, and Dad.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it. Go for it now. The future is promised to no one." Congratulations to Britney Mafnas on your high school graduation! C/O 2009 rocks!" Tons of love from your family and friends.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail."
—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Congratulations to Kimberly Maratita Camacho on your graduation at Kagman High School. "We are all proud of you for accomplishing this milestone in life. Whatever lies ahead in the future for you, just remember, the sky is the limit and we will support you 100 percent." With lots of love, from Mom, Dad and the familia!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FMI/DEQ CLEANUP
On Sunday morning members of the Friend of the Mariana Islands were found cleaning up the Airport fence line in DanDan. The FMI group includes former lawmaker Cinta Kaipat and members of her family. Also present at this cleanup was Division of Environmental Quality manager Joe Kaipat and members of his family, so this effort was a combined volunteer effort of the FMI and DEQ. FMI has been undertaking these types of cleanups on weekends for the last three years. While the FMI has received support from Mobil for specific projects during the last four years, the weekly cleanup activities such as at the Airport/DanDan area are adoption events that are done without financial support. This last weekend the FMI volunteers removed an entire trailer load of trash from the Airport fence area. Much of the trash appeared to be household garbage illegally dumped in the area. Some of the trash was visible from the roads of Dandan while others could be seen from the airplanes as they taxied, landed or took off.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EDU-TOURISM
Marianas Visitors Authority distributes its "Study Abroad in Saipan" program brochure at the Early Study Abroad and English Camp Fair held in Seoul, Korea, on May 23-24, 2009. Over 10,000 participants attended, mostly parents.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BON VOYAGE
Bon voyage and best wishes to team Captain Divya Sharma (with mwar) and family, from the Independence Football Club Women's Team! Thanks for all your leadership and support.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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LAST DAY! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!
GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, MAN!! YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY GOT STOCKHOLM SYNDROME!
©2009 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE
5/23

EDITORIAL

A new beginning

Rhetorically, at least, President Obama moved mountains in the land of Muhammad. Speaking from Cairo University to the world's estimated 1.5 billion Muslims, the American president made a frank appeal for a new relationship based on mutual respect. Language matters, and this was an eloquent address of historic and moral importance meant to turn the page on strong-arm politics and ultimatums. The first U.S. president of color and the son of a Muslim, Obama brought his personal credibility to the podium, not to apologize but to acknowledge the country's past mistakes and to set an agenda for the future. Certainly words alone will not bring peace to the Middle East or persuade America's enemies to abandon their anger. As Obama noted, "recognizing our common humanity is only the beginning of our task." Still, this was a new beginning.

In recent years, U.S. relations with Muslim nations have been shaped largely by hostilities, from the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington to the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The U.S. role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been an open wound bleeding distrust and anger. While vowing to confront violent extremism and defend Americans, Obama sought to end that era with a declaration: The United States is not at war with Islam. Rather, he said, the ties stretch from the American Revolution, when Morocco became the first country to recognize U.S. independence, to the present, with 1,200 mosques in the United States offering convincing testimony that "Islam is part of America."

Many times during the nearly hourlong speech, Obama seemed to be trying to right the wrongs of linguistic omission. While maintaining that the war against al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan was necessary, he stated that Iraq was "a war of choice" that sowed discord within the United States and around the world. He condemned a history of colonialism and the Cold War treatment of Muslim countries as proxies. Speaking to Iran, Obama acknowledged that the United States "played a role in the overthrow" of the democratically elected government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq in 1953 -- a long-awaited admission in our fractious relations with that Muslim nation.

On the issue of most concern to his Middle East audience—Israel and Palestine—Obama was boldly evenhanded, leading critics to charge that he was abandoning America's most stalwart and reliable ally in the region. To the contrary. Obama expressed unequivocal U.S. support for Israel. "This bond is unbreakable," he said. Palestinians

See A NEW on Page 11

The responsibility of managing other people's money

First of a two-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

One often hears or reads about fiduciary responsibility in reference to guardians, stock brokers, money managers, public trust accounts, credit unions or pension plans. The scope of the issue is wide-ranging and complex. It is always about someone misusing other people's money they have been entrusted to manage. History tells us that executives at Enron, Tyco, WorldCom, Disney and Health South are but a few recently in the news who are either already convicted or are in court for their alleged abuse of a variety of crimes some of which involved the disregard of their fiduciary responsibilities. You can Google their crimes if interested.

Those readers who have followed any of the essays in this column might be interested in learning some of the fiduciary responsibilities of those entrusted with the management of other people's money and in particular the NMI Retirement Fund. A publication (below) is available to help educate important "stakeholders" about the fiduciary responsibilities of people who have the legal authority for exercising control over the funds of others. Several topics discussed include personal liability for fiduciaries, investment duties and case law. The handbook is a reference guide for trustees, members of investment committees and others.

In the handling of money—when one acts as a trustee—there is a fiduciary responsibility owed to the principal party. It is defined as a relationship imposed by law where someone has agreed to act in the capacity of a "caretaker" of another's rights, assets and/or well-being. The fiduciary owes an obligation to carry out the responsibilities with the utmost degree of "good faith, honesty, integrity, loyalty and undivided service of the beneficiaries interest."(1) Good faith has been interpreted to impose an obligation to act reasonably in order to avoid negligent handling of the beneficiary's interests as well the duty not to favor anyone else's interest (including the trustee's own interest) over that of the beneficiaries.

Further, if the agent should find him/herself in a position of conflicting interests, the agent must disclose the dual agency (acting for two parties at the same time) or risk being accused of constructive fraud in regards to both or either principals. NMI Retirement Fund trustees would be well advised to note this.

The legal and practical scrutiny a fiduciary undergoes is formidable, and it comes from multiple directions and for various reasons. Interestingly, fiduciary liability is not determined by investment performance, but rather on whether prudent investment practices were followed.

"Many fiduciaries just don't understand what their responsibilities are. What's more, managers are frequently unaware that they are, in fact, fiduciaries. This misunderstanding leads to most of the violations that can lead to lawsuits." (1)

As pointed out in the handbook, a person is a plan fiduciary "to the extent that he or she exercises discretionary control or authority over plan management as in the case of the NMI Retirement Fund; or authority or control over management or disposition of plan assets; renders investment advice regarding plan assets; or has discretionary authority or responsibility in plan administration." As such, a person can be a fiduciary whether or not he or she has been formally named as such.

The primary responsibility of fiduciaries is to run the plan (Fund) solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits and paying plan expenses. Fiduciaries must act prudently and must diversify the plan's investments in order to minimize the risk of large losses. They also must avoid conflicts of interest. In other words, they may not engage in transactions on behalf of the plan that benefit parties related to the plan, such as other fiduciaries or service providers.

"Unfortunately, many organizations operate under the misconception that by outsourcing plan administration to third-parties, they have 'off-loaded' fiduciary responsibility. Others think that by giving employees a slate of investment options, and letting employees self-direct those investments, they are also off the hook. Many organizations think, 'We've given them these choices, that's all we have to worry about.' That can be deemed to show a lack of prudence.

"A fiduciary should be aware of others who serve as fiduciaries to the same plan, since all fiduciaries have potential liability for the actions of their co-fiduciaries. For example, if a fiduciary knowingly participates in another fiduciary's breach of responsibility, conceals the breach, or does not act to correct it, that fiduciary can be liable as well."

NMI Fund trustees should be aware of this responsibility and the potential penalty for failure to always perform their job in the best interests of the retirees and no one else.

Source: A Handbook for Investment Fiduciaries, *published by the Foundation for Fiduciary Studies (www.ffstudies.org.).*

To be continued.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America's fading legacy in the Pacific

By CRAIG HOOPER
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Every time the Atlantic partnership needs reinvigoration, U.S. presidents turn to our nation's silent stone diplomats—the 36 American military memorials throughout Europe.

On Saturday, the 65th anniversary of D-day, President Barack Obama is set to address the European alliance before the same Normandy monuments President Ronald Reagan used as a backdrop for his Cold War "Boys of Pointe du Hoc" speech in 1984, a sweeping challenge to the Soviet Union.

But this "good war" magic remains a solidly European phenomenon—whether it be D-Day or most any other wartime commemoration. Far from the old Cold War frontiers, our nation's South Pacific battlefields sit on the sidelines of great-power geopolitics.

Failure to tend the Pacific World War II legacy—which would be a strong foundation for future engagement—is a strategic mistake. As the Pacific Basin evolves from a safe American "lake" into a dangerous geopolitical playing field, appreciation of our World War II sacrifices there might, in the future, tip the scales in favor of peace over conflict.

Little time is left to evoke the "good war" legacy. The United States' benign postwar presence, an experience once common to virtually every Pacific Islander, is now mostly a sepia-tinted myth preached by old-timers. The fight that helped generate new nations goes uncelebrated by the primary beneficiaries, an assemblage of 14 fledgling island democracies.

It wasn't always this way. For decades after World War II, Pacific theater veterans could be counted on to sustain their own heritage. Survivors of the landing on Tarawa, one of the toughest U.S. fights in World War II, saved their battle memorial site in 1988, when the young democratic Republic of Kiribati decided to build a cold-storage plant on it for a Japanese fishing fleet. But now the battlefield at Red Beach, where many people died, is being consumed by garbage.

Few veterans are left to fight for their history. The duty of defending Tarawa's fading U.S. legacy has fallen to Leon Cooper, an 89-year-old veteran and the subject of a documentary this year chronicling his campaign.

Elsewhere in the Pacific, memories of key American battlefield contributions are disappearing. In the Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal's Henderson Field, the site of the first U.S. strategic offensive of the war and named after a Marine aviator killed in the Battle of Midway, began a re-branding process in 2003. It became the more "neutral" Honiara International Airport, named for the capital.

All memory of America's massive wartime development project—the establishment of a Pacific-wide logistical support network—has almost vanished.

Even living monuments—the islanders who once served the United States—have been neglected. Solomon Islander Eroni "Aaron" Kumana, a native coast-watcher working behind Japanese lines, helped save John F. Kennedy, our future president, whose PT boat was sunk in 1943. And although Kennedy invited Kumana to his inauguration (he was not able to attend), the hero had to wait 64 years before federal officials bothered to express gratitude. By the time U.S. Navy Secretary Donald Winter handed the old U.S scout a flag and some trinkets in 2007, Kumana was deaf and impoverished, and his small house had been destroyed by an earthquake. With no U.S. government money available to help, the crew aboard the U.S. assault ship Peleliu resorted to passing the hat.

This is no way to tend a legacy.

In today's highly wired Internet society, where history is just a few keyboard clicks away, it is easy to forget that physical memorials, real war graves and crumbling fortifications are useful. In the Pacific, old-fashioned polished stone memorials are one of the few ways average Pacific Islanders can connect to the United States.

And at this point, America has little else to offer.

In the Solomon Islands, despite the fact that less than 2 percent of the population has online access, the local U.S. diplomatic presence has dwindled to a "virtual" Internet embassy. In these unconnected regions, a few granite diplomats may yet prove a better long-term investment than an unusable high-tech showpiece.

With the United States' Pacific influence on the wane, the clock is ticking. Over the next five years, as the U.S. struggles to fund a dwindling and overtasked Navy, Russia, China, Japan, South Korea and other Asian countries are preparing to invest more than $60 billion in a regionwide naval arms race. When those new navies, all accompanied by a corps of highly trained, well-funded and active flesh-and-bone diplomats, start moving into the Pacific Basin to work to resolve festering environmental, ethnic and political problems, it will be far too late for the U.S. to start invoking past sacrifices.

Hooper, a naval strategist, is a lecturer on national security affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

10 steps to world-class American schools

By WILLIAM BROCK, RAY MARSHALL and MARC TUCKER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The key to U.S. global stature after World War II was the world's best-educated work force. But now the United States ranks No. 12, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and today's younger generation is the first to be less educated than the preceding one.

No Child Left Behind is about getting our lowest-performing students to minimum standards. That is nowhere near enough. To get us where we need to go, we propose the National World Class Schools Act to replace NCLB. To get its fair share of federal education funds, a state would need to:

1 Set standards for licensing teachers that are high enough to recruit from the top third of college graduates, as the top-performing countries do, and never waive them during a shortage. If we insisted on high standards for our teachers and didn't waive them, teachers' pay would have to rise, a lot, and the pay for those in the shortest supply—math and science teachers, and teachers willing to work in tough inner-city schools and isolated rural areas—would rise the most.

2 Get outstanding students to go into teaching and treat them like professionals, not blue-collar workers in dead-end jobs. That means putting teachers in charge of their schools.

3 Reward schools that do a great job. NCLB penalizes schools when they fail but offers no rewards for outstanding work. Provide cash payments of 10 percent of the school budget every year to every school whose students significantly exceed the statistical predictions of performance for students with the same characteristics. Tell principals and faculties that they will get their normal budgets if their students are making adequate progress toward the standard of ready-for-college-without-remediation by graduation, and that they will be handsomely rewarded if their students are making substantially more progress toward that goal than other schools with similar student bodies. The financial reward should come as a big bonus for the school, and the faculty should decide how to spend it. This is better than rewarding individual teachers on the basis of their students' performance, which is hard to measure and will destroy the team spirit essential to a good school.

4 Hold faculty accountable for student achievement. Take over every school that, after three years, is unable to get at least 90 percent of all major groups of students on track to leave high school ready to enter college without the need to take any remedial courses; do the same for every district in which more than a quarter of the schools are under review for underperformance for three years or more. Declare such schools and districts bankrupt and void all contracts with their staffs.

5 Replace the current accountability tests with high-quality, course-based exams. The way we measure student performance is crucial. Rigor, creativity and innovation in student performance require a high-quality curriculum and exams, and will be impossible to achieve if we continue to use the kind of multiple-choice, computer-scored tests that are common today.

6 Collect a variety of information on school and student performance and make it easily accessible to parents, students and teachers. Allow parents to choose freely among the available public schools.

7 Provide high-quality training and technical assistance to every school whose students are not on track to succeed. Most struggling schools are in chaos; their morale is in the basement and their faculties don't know how to improve things. States have little capacity to fix this; the federal government needs to help.

8 Limit variations in any states' per-pupil expenditures to no more than 5 percent by school, except for the differential cost of educating disadvantaged students and those with disabilities to the same standards as students who don't face those obstacles. In this country, students who need the most help have the lowest school budgets—a formula for national failure.

9 Make a range of social services available to children from low-income families and coordinate those services with those students' school programs. We have the most unequal distribution of income of any industrialized nation. If the problems posed by students' poverty are not dealt with, it may be nearly impossible for schools to educate the students to world-class standards. The state cannot eliminate students' poverty, but it can take steps to alleviate its effects on students' capacity to learn.

10 Offer high-quality early-childhood education to, at a minimum, all 4-year-olds and all low-income 3-year-olds. Students from low-income families entering kindergarten have less than half the vocabulary of other students. In kindergarten and the early grades, those with the smallest vocabularies cannot follow what is going on and fall further behind. By the end of fourth grade, they are so far behind they can never catch up. By the time they are 16 and can legally drop out of school, they do so because they can no longer stand the humiliation of not being able to follow what is going on in their classes. That is why we lead the industrialized world in the proportion of students who drop out.

Yes, these are radical proposals. But decades of incremental proposals have brought steadily increasing costs and flat performance. Time is running out. It is hard to make a case that the federal government should continue to fund the states to maintain the status quo.

Brock was secretary of labor in the Reagan administration. Marshall was secretary of labor in the Carter administration. Tucker is president of the National Center on Education and the Economy. They are leaders of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, an initiative of the NCEE.

A NEW

From Page 10

must recognize the permanence of the Jewish state. He noted that the murder of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust is "a tragic history that cannot be denied," and warned that threatening Israel with destruction revives that pain and hinders the pursuit of peace.

But unyielding support for Israel need not require the denigration of its adversaries. Obama paved new ground by granting equal time and consideration to the Palestinians' 60-year struggle for a homeland. He pointedly referred to their struggle against Israeli occupation as "resistance." He deplored the "intolerable situation" for Palestinians living in refugee camps in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and in other countries, and all those who "endure the daily humiliations—large and small—of occupation." Americans, he said, "will not turn our backs on the legitimate Palestinian aspiration for dignity, opportunity and a state of their own." He acknowledged that the Islamic movement Hamas has support among Palestinians, yet insisted that it abandon violence and recognize Israel's right to exist.

On the issue of democracy, Obama also made strides toward overcoming a double standard for friends and adversaries in the Muslim world. Without specifically condemning allies such as Saudi Arabia or Egypt, he nonetheless spoke forcefully for free speech, rule of law, government by consent and other human rights they often deny. Beyond this, the president's agenda included equal rights for women, economic development and halting the spread of nuclear weapons. In a global public diplomacy campaign, the government translated the speech into 13 languages, posted it on the Web in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and English, and made it available on cellphones as well as the Internet.

The question now, of course, is how to turn words into deeds, and how to ensure that U.S. deeds in the far reaches of Afghanistan and Pakistan don't undermine Obama's reconciliation goals. Many U.S. presidents have tried and failed to make peace in the Middle East. Obama's speech came a day after Osama bin Laden accused the United States of sowing new seeds of hatred in the Muslim world by "ordering Pakistan" to block Islamic law in the Swat Valley and to crack down on militants. Those are the views of a fanatic, but we do fear that the killing of civilians in U.S. bombing raids in Pakistan and Afghanistan risks drawing new recruits into the Islamic insurgencies fighting U.S.-backed governments.

And yet, one important change took place Thursday. Obama went to Cairo to talk, not lecture. He addressed the Muslim world honestly and directly. He spoke not as an imperial power to an underling, or a parent to a child, but as a statesman speaking to millions of men and women who have long deserved—and rarely received—the respect of an American president.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°

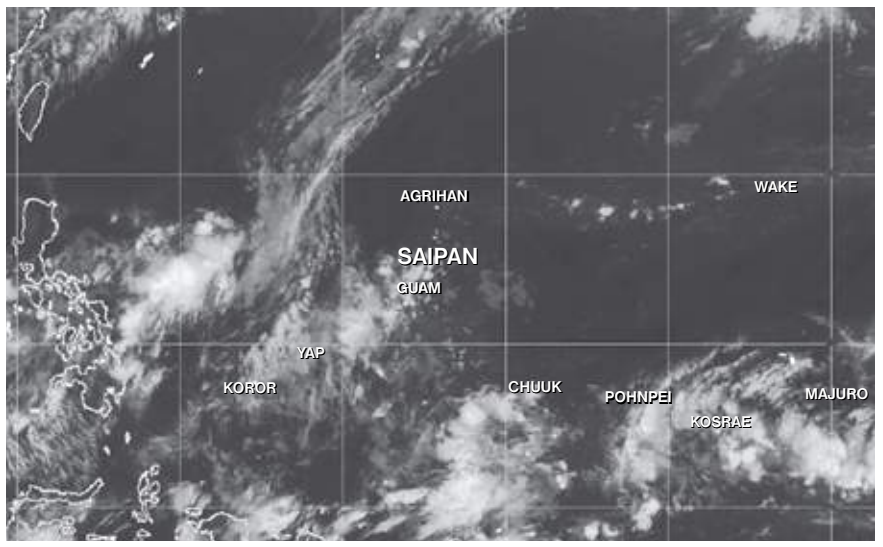
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Sunny	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲57	▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲86	▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼74
London	Showers	▲61	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲52	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
New York	Thunderstorms	▲75	▼66
Osaka	Cloudy	▲79	▼66
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼50
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼63
Rome	Cloudy	▲83	▼66
Salem	Cloudy	▲71	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼55
Seoul	Rain	▲70	▼61
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲78	▼65
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A warm front extends southwestward from 25N143E to a circulation centered at 20N135E then continues as a cold front to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 150 miles of the fronts and circulation. Divergent winds aloft associated with an upper-level low centered at 16N141E are coupling with converging trade-winds to generate scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan or between 9N and 15N from 143E to 153E. Low-level convergence is causing cloudiness, scattered showers and few thunderstorms east of Yap and Koror within 100 miles of a line from 3N137E to 10N140E. A surface trough extends eastward from 5N143E to a circulation centered at 5N151E then continues southeastward to end at EQ157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Chuuk between the equator and 6N from 150E to 153E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 4N162E to 3N170E and south of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from 3N170E to 2N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:55 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:18 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:58 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:15 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:06 PM	6:38 AM
Wednesday	8:52 PM	7:30 AM
Thursday	9:34 PM	8:22 AM
Friday	10:13 PM	9:12 AM
Saturday	10:50 PM	10:01 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Chrysler dealers scramble to unload vehicles

By BREE FOWLER
AP AUTO WRITER

Peter J. Walsh, the owner of Walsh Dodge in Jersey City, N.J., started out selling used cars in his hometown 28 years ago after the birth of his daughter. He slowly built his business, and felt as if he'd finally made it when he earned his Chrysler shingle in 2000.

But on Tuesday, Walsh Dodge will lose that shingle—as will 788 other dealers across the country. Auburn Hills, Mich.-based Chrysler has asked a bankruptcy court for permission to terminate the franchise agreements of about 25 percent of its dealers. Chrysler needs to cut costs, and claims current sales levels don't justify a network of 3,189 dealers.

For Walsh and the others on the "hit list," the last days of selling Dodge, Jeep and Chrysler vehicles have been filled with quick sales at deep discounts, along with sad goodbyes from longtime customers and feelings of dismay and anger toward the automaker they worked with for years.

"It is what it is. It's just a tough situation," Walsh said, speaking inside his dealership Saturday morning. "It's been difficult mentally the past couple of months, but we'll be OK. I don't feel as bad for myself as I do for the young guys with families that work for me."

AP
In this May 31, 2009 photo, the company sign hangs over a row of unsold 2009 models at a Chrysler-Jeep dealership in the south Denver suburb of Englewood, Colo.

Chrysler maintains that the franchises singled out for termination were chosen because they weren't profitable, didn't have all of the automaker's three brands under one roof, or were located too close to another Chrysler dealer.

But the dealers argued in court that a smaller dealer base won't save the company any substantial money. They say the dealers cover their own costs, paying for everything from the vehicles on their lots to employees, advertising and tools.

Walsh said that while Chrysler's products were good, its dealer support was always poor—too focused on the automaker's own short-term needs.

And while he might have been underperforming some of Chrysler's sales criteria, Walsh claims some of that was the automaker's fault, pointing to its insistence that he sell more pickup trucks—a vehicle unsuited to the densely populated urban strip he serves across the Hudson River from New York City.

"How many Dodge pickups can I sell in Jersey City? It's not Waco, Texas," Walsh said.

A court hearing that began Thursday in New York with testimony from over a dozen dealers is scheduled to continue with legal arguments on Tuesday. U.S. Judge Arthur Gonzalez is expected to rule after the arguments conclude.

Steven Landry, Chrysler's executive vice president of North American sales, said Tuesday's deadline remains fixed. Dealers can sell the vehicles after that date, but they won't be able to offer Chrysler sales incentives, making it tough for them to compete.

"We won't be changing any dealers on the list. We won't be changing the date," he said.

Landry said Chrysler had commitments for the inventory of 42,000 vehicles on the lots of the affected dealers. Dealers have sold 16,000 vehicles to customers since the May 14 announcement and Landry said the remaining 26,000 cars and trucks would be purchased by remaining dealers.

Chuck Eddy, a Youngstown, Ohio, dealer who was among those chosen to remain with Chrysler, said dealers have quickly bought up the inventory of those going out of business and are preparing for the transition.

"I have no fire sale going on. There's no dealer in my town who was terminated having a fire sale," Eddy said. "People are buying the car for the true value."

New ads present Spam as spark for lively meals

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The makers of Spam, long a symbol of frugality, are advertising the often-maligned canned pork as a way to relieve boredom at the dinner table as the recession wears on.

The "Break the Monotony" ad campaign moves to television and radio Monday as consumers seeking to eat on the cheap buy more of Hormel Foods Inc.'s low-cost Spam, Dinty Moore beef stew and namesake chili. The campaign offers new uses for the meat-in-a-can designed to brighten its image—away from the meat notoriously lampooned in a 1970 Monty Python skit and toward a fun, hip ingredient useable in a range of comfort foods.

Sales of canned foods, especially canned meat, have been rising in the recession as people limit their food spending because they usually cost less than fresh fruits, vegetables or meat, said Marcia Mogelonsky, an analyst with research firm Mintel.

"They're an alternative to just eggs or a sandwich or whatever," she said. "It extends a meal. It adds a protein."

Hormel boosted advertising for the 72-year-old brand last year with the first national print campaign for Spam in five years, reminding people about it and focusing on new products

High court asked to block Chrysler sale to Fiat

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three Indiana state pension and construction funds want the Supreme Court to block Chrysler's sale to Fiat so they can pursue an appeal in hopes of getting a better deal.

Also filing emergency papers at the high court Sunday were lawyers representing consumer groups and individuals with product-related lawsuits.

An appeals court in New York approved the sale Friday, but gave objectors until Monday afternoon to try to get the Supreme Court to intervene. Chrysler LLC wants to sell the bulk of its assets to a group led by Italy's Fiat Group SpA as part of its plan to emerge from bankruptcy protection.

The emergency requests went first to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who handles such matters from New York. She can act on her own or refer it to the entire court.

The Indiana State Police Pension Fund, the Indiana Teacher's Retirement Fund and the state's Major Moves Construction Fund claim the deal unfairly favors the interests of Chrysler's unsecured stakeholders ahead of those of secured debtholders such as the funds.

The funds also challenged the constitutionality of the Treasury Department's use of money from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to supply Chrysler's bankruptcy protection financing. They say the government did so without congressional authority.

The government-sponsored reorganization of the U.S. auto industry, including the Chrysler bankruptcy proceedings, "is a matter of incredibly high profile and importance," the funds said in their request to the high court. "The public is watching and needs to see that, particularly when the system is under stress, the rule of law will be honored and an independent judiciary will properly scrutinize the actions of the massively powerful executive branch."

The second request contests a condition of the sale agreement that would release the new company from pending and future product liability claims related to vehicles sold before the new company's creation.

1Q credit card delinquency rate jumps 11 percent

NEW YORK (AP)—Credit card holders who in ordinary years might have used their tax refunds to pay down their balances apparently spent the money elsewhere as the recession deepened in the first quarter.

That's one of the conclusions that may be drawn from data showing the delinquency rate for bank-issued credit cards rose 11 percent in the first three months of the year, according to credit reporting agency TransUnion.

The delinquency rate jumped to 1.32 percent this year, from 1.19 percent in the first three months of 2008, TransUnion said. The statistic measures the percentage of card holders who are three months or more past due on their payments for cards bearing MasterCard and Visa logos, along with American Express and Discover cards.

The average total debt on bank cards also rose, jumping to $5,776 from $5,548 last year.

Balances typically rise in the first quarter, as holiday spending comes due, said Ezra Becker, director of consulting and strategy in TransUnion's financial services group. But retail sales results showed holiday spending took a steep drop. That likely means higher balances now reflect consumers using credit cards to pay for necessities, he said.

"You would have seen a much better retail season if people were spending on gifts," Becker noted.

While delinquency rates typically rise in the first quarter, this year's jump was higher, he said, in part because tax refunds were likely used to cover everyday expenses as the unemployment rate shot up.

Becker also noted that many workers who in past years received bonuses did not get that income, while others saw overtime wages slip. "A lot of the funding that would be available to pay down debt has either disappeared or was allocated to other uses," Becker said.

That said, the credit card delinquency rate remains well below the 5.22 percent for mortgages in the first quarter, meaning card holders are trying hard to keep their payments current, even when other debts go unpaid. "We see consumers really putting a lot of effort into trying to keep their credit card relationships at a healthy status," Becker said.

TransUnion measures credit card delinquencies at 90 days, but tracks mortgage delinquencies at 60 days. Becker said that is because card payments are typically much smaller than mortgage payments, and it's easier to catch up on past due cards.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stocks mixed as data suggests weak recovery

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets were mixed Monday as investors weighed the possibility of a weak economic recovery after U.S. job losses eased but unemployment reached its highest in more than 25 years. Japanese exporters like Toyota and Canon advanced after the U.S. government reported Friday that employers in the world's largest economy cut 345,000 jobs in May—the fewest since September. That was far less than the 520,000 job losses that economists predicted. It provided the latest hopeful sign for the job market and American consumers, who've dramatically cut back their spending amid rising unemployment and plunging home values, hitting global trade.

Sunstone prepared to turn over W San Diego to bank

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (AP)—Sunstone Hotel Investors Inc. said Sunday it will default on the June mortgage payment for its swanky W Hotel San Diego property and turn over the 258-room downtown hotel to lenders, after failing to lower interest payments. The real estate investment trust said Sunday its San Diego hotel has been hurt by "significant and continuing deterioration in demand for luxury lodging" as well as the opening of luxury boutique hotels, two additional Starwood-branded hotels and a 1,190-room convention hotel nearby. Sunstone purchased the W San Diego in June 2006 for $96 million from developers including Starwood Hotels, Gatehouse Capital and Multi-Employer Development Partners. The hotel carries a $65 million, fixed-rate commercial mortgage-backed securities loan with a 6.14 percent interest rate, which comes due Jan. 1, 2018. The mortgage principal translates to more than $250,000 in debt per room.

Oil slips below $68 in Asia

BANGKOK (AP)—Oil prices slipped below $68 Monday in Asia as a rally that has roughly doubled the price of crude in four months lost some steam in the face of economic reality. Benchmark crude for July delivery was down 49 cents at $67.95 a barrel by midday Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, It settled down 37 cents at $68.44 after jumping as high as $70.32, the highest since October. Crude prices have risen in tandem with global stocks as gloom about the global economy eased but many analysts say the oil market is overreaching.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

5 tornadoes touch down in Colorado, mall damaged

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—At least five tornadoes touched down in Colorado on Sunday, with one overturning benches and a car outside a mall in a Denver suburb and injuring a man who tried to take pictures of a twister. The man was taken to a hospital with serious injuries, said Battalion Chief Mark Turley of the Aurora Fire Department. Turley said medical privacy laws kept him from releasing further details. Firefighters reported moderate damage and gas leaks at the Southlands Mall, which was forced to close.

Ore. woman charged in death of pregnant woman

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A pregnant 21-year-old found dead with her baby no longer in her womb befriended the woman charged with killing her through Craigslist, her mother said Sunday. Police said they found Heather M. Snively's body Friday in a crawl space in Korena Elaine Roberts' home in Beaverton, a Portland suburb. They'd been called there because a newborn wasn't breathing. The baby later died. Roberts told officers she'd recently given birth to the baby boy, said Sgt. David Thompson of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and both were taken to a hospital. Doctors could not save the baby, and they alerted authorities after determining Roberts had not given birth.

Stowaway from Ethiopia found among Dulles baggage

CHANTILLY, Va. (AP)—Federal authorities say they've discovered a stowaway who arrived at a Washington-area airport in the cargo hold of a flight from Ethiopia. U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Steve Sapp says ground personnel at Dulles International Airport were pulling baggage from Ethiopian Airlines Flight 500 when they noticed an arm sticking out. Sapp says the stowaway was an Ethiopian man who was exhausted and dehydrated. He was taken to Reston Hospital Center and is now being held at a federal detention center. Sapp says the man has been charged with being a stowaway and will be deported, but is not a security threat. He says the flight departed from Addis Ababa and stopped in Rome before landing at Dulles shortly after 9 a.m. Saturday.

Suspect in abortion doctor death warns of violence

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—The man charged with murdering a high-profile abortion doctor claimed from his jail cell Sunday that similar violence was planned around the nation for as long as the procedure remained legal, a threat that comes days after a federal investigation launched into his possible accomplices.

A Justice Department spokesman said the threat was being taken seriously and additional protection had been ordered for abortion clinics last week. But a leader of the anti-abortion movement derided the accused shooter as "a fruit and a lunatic."

Scott Roeder called The Associated Press from the Sedgwick County jail, where he's being held on charges of first-degree murder and aggravated assault in the shooting of Dr. George Tiller one week ago.

"I know there are many other similar events planned around the country as long as abortion remains legal," Roeder said. When asked by the AP what he meant and if he was referring to another shooting, he refused to elaborate further.

It wasn't clear whether Roeder knew of any impending violence or whether he was simply seeking publicity for his cause.

AP

Scott Roeder makes his first court appearance via a video link from the Sedgwick County Jail on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 in Wichita, Kan. Roeder, 51, has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of late-term abortion provider Dr. George Tiller.

Law enforcement authorities including the Justice Department said they didn't know whether the threat was credible.

Tiller's clinic in Wichita was among only a few in the U.S. that perform third-trimester abortions. He was shot while serving as an usher at the Lutheran church he attended.

Asked if he shot Tiller, Roeder replied that he could not comment about that and said he needed to clear everything with his lawyer.

Justice Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a written statement Sunday that "we take this matter seriously, which is why the Attorney General ordered increased protection of appropriate people and facilities last week."

Tiller's clinic had been a target of regular demonstrations by abortion opponents. Most were peaceful, but his clinic was bombed in 1986 and he was shot in both arms in 1993. In 1991, a 45-day "Summer of Mercy" campaign organized by Operation Rescue drew thousands of abortion opponents to Wichita, and there were more than 2,700 arrests.

The Justice Department opened an investigation Friday to see if the gunman who killed Tiller had accomplices. The DOJ said its Civil Rights Division and the U.S. attorney's office in Kansas will investigate whether the killing violated a 1994 law creating criminal penalties for violent or damaging conduct toward abortion providers and their patients.

An attorney for the Tiller family, Dan Monnat, said he wasn't sure they should be dignifying Roeder's actions and threats with a response "every time he makes a hare-brained phone call."

"I am hopeful that state and federal authorities, including Homeland Security, will give Mr. Roeder and his information a deserving response," Monnat said, declining to elaborate.

Nancy Keenan president of NARAL-Pro-Choice America, said Roeder's comments "continue to escalate that kind of activity, that kind of violence. Quite honestly, I think it's imperative for anti-choice groups to tone down that rhetoric and keep the more extreme elements in their movement form copying Scott Roeder."

A funeral was held Saturday for Tiller. Most anti-abortion groups avoided the service, having denounced Tiller's shooting.

Panel finds lax oversight of wartime contracting

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department has failed to provide adequate oversight over tens of billions of dollars in contracts to support military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, says a new report by an independent commission investigating waste and fraud in wartime spending.

U.S. reliance on private sector employees has grown to "unprecedented proportions," yet the government has no central database of who all these contractors are, what they do or how much they're paid, the bipartisan commission found.

In its first report to Congress, the Wartime Contracting Commission presents a bleak assessment of how taxpayer dollars have been spent since 2001. The 111-page report, obtained by The Associated Press, documents poor management, weak oversight, and a failure to learn from past mistakes as recurring themes in wartime contracting.

The commission's report is scheduled to be made public Wednesday at a hearing held by the House Oversight and Government Reform's national security subcommittee.

One example of wasted money cited by the commission involves construction of a $30 million dining facility at a U.S. base in Iraq scheduled to be completed Dec. 25. The decision to build it was based on bad planning and botched paperwork. Yet the project is too far along to stop, making the mess hall a future monument to the waste and inefficiency plaguing the war effort.

The commission, established by Congress last year, says more than 240,000 private sector employees are supporting military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands more work for the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development.

In Iraq, the panel worries that as U.S. troops depart in larger numbers, too few government eyes will be on the contractors left to oversee the closing of hundreds of bases and disposal of mountains of federal property.

At Rustamiyah, a seven-acre forward operating base turned over to the Iraqis in March, the military population plunged from 1,490 to 62 in just three months. During the same period, the contractor population dropped from 928 to 338, leaving more than five contractors for every service member.

In Afghanistan, where President Barack Obama has ordered a large increase of U.S. troops, existing bases will have to expand and new ones will be built—without proper oversight unless the Pentagon rapidly changes course.

Shootout with Ala. escapees jolts tiny ND town

GLADSTONE, N.D. (AP)—Residents in this tiny North Dakota town were jarred from their sleep with calls from authorities: Lock your doors.

Police were trying to capture suspects in a video store robbery who turned out to be four people wanted in an Alabama prison break. The suspects had holed up in a garage and held off authorities for more than 14 hours Saturday before two of them surrendered and two were wounded in a shootout with police.

"We do have some excitement around here every once in a while and this is one of those times," said Lillian Bondell, tending her garden with her husband, Ben, on Sunday in Gladstone. "It's not usually a lively town."

Authorities on Saturday cordoned off the community of about 200 along Interstate 94, about 85 miles west of Bismarck. Some 40 officers had surrounded a ranch where two prison escapees and two women accused of helping them had made their stand with police. They also warned people to lock up in a place that usually doesn't worry about security.

"I locked the doors and turned out the lights and made ourselves as inconspicuous as I could. My husband stayed in bed," Lillian Bondell said.

Joshua Southwick, 26, and Ashton Mink, 22, had escaped nearly two weeks ago from the Perry County Detention Center in Uniontown, Ala., and had eluded officers in at least seven states, authorities said. With them were Mink's sister, Angela, 25, and his wife, Jacquelin, 25.

Authorities said officers were preparing to use tear gas on the detached garage around 2:25 p.m., when Southwick and Angela Mink walked out and were arrested. Ashton and Jacquelin Mink ran out the back of the building, and gunfire was exchanged. Authorities said the two were wounded but their conditions were not released.

Gay rights activist calls for march on Washington

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—An activist who worked alongside slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk announced plans Sunday for a march on Washington this fall to demand that Congress establish equality and marriage rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Cleve Jones said the march planned for Oct. 11 will coincide with National Coming Out Day and launch a new chapter in the gay rights movement. He made the announcement during a rally at the annual Utah Pride Festival.

"We seek nothing more and nothing less than equal protection in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states," Jones said.

He stirred up a crowd of thousands just blocks from the Salt Lake City headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, part of a conservative coalition that worked last fall to pass California's Proposition 8, which overturned a court ruling legalizing gay marriage.

"I've got a message for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," Jones shouted. "I've got two words from California ... I've got two words for the prophet ... Thank you. Thank you for uniting us. Thank you for galvanizing us."

Mormons were among the campaign's most vigorous volunteers and financial contributors, giving tens of millions of dollars to back Proposition 8, which Jones said has helped awaken and unite the gay rights movement in all 50 states.

Like many faiths, Mormons hold traditional marriage as a sacred institution. The church has been active in fighting marriage equality legislation across the U.S. since the 1990s and, in 2006, joined other faiths in asking Congress for a marriage amendment to the Constitution.

Gay marriage is legal in six states. A handful of others allow civil unions for same-sex couples and about 40 either bar the recognition of same-sex marriage or have explicitly defined marriage—through legislation or constitutional amendments—as between a man and a woman.

Asia

NKorea sentences 2 US journalists to 12 years jail

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's top court convicted two American journalists and sentenced them to 12 years in labor prison Monday, intensifying the reclusive nation's confrontation with the United States.

The North's Central Court tried TV reporters Laura Ling and Euna Lee during proceedings running from last Thursday to Monday and found them guilty of a "grave crime" against the nation, and of illegally crossing into North Korea, the country's state-run Korean Central News Agency said.

It said the court "sentenced each of them to 12 years of reform through labor." The KCNA report gave no other details.

Ling and Lee—who were working for former Vice President Al Gore's California-based Current TV—cannot appeal because they were tried in North Korea's highest court, where decisions are final.

Many analysts believe there is a good chance the two woman will be freed. They say the reporters are being used by Pyongyang as bargaining chips in its standoff with South Korea and the United States, which are pushing for U.N. sanctions to punish the North for its latest nuclear test and a barrage of missile tests.

By sentencing them to prison, North Korea has "paved the way for a political pardon and a diplomatic solution," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.

He noted that a pardon can only be issued after a conviction and that the regime's courts were not about to find the reporters innocent, which would imply they were wrongly arrested.

Kim Yong-hyun, a professor at Seoul's Dongguk University, said the sentence—the maximum possible allowed by the North's laws—could have been a reaction to strong statements from the U.S., including threats of sanctions and putting North Korea back on a list of state sponsors of terrorism.

"I think this is the North's response to recent hard-line moves by the U.S.," Kim said. "But the sentence doesn't mean much because the issue will be resolved diplomatically in the end."

The circumstances surrounding the trial of the two journalists and their arrest March 17 on the China-North Korean border have been shrouded in secrecy, as is typical of the reclusive nation. The trial was not open to the public or foreign observers, including the Swedish Embassy, which looks after American interests in the absence of diplomatic relations.

The two were reporting about the trafficking of women at the time of their arrest, and it's unclear if they strayed into the North or were grabbed by aggressive border guards who crossed into China.

U.S. State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said Washington was trying to confirm press reports of the sentencing.

Kelly said the U.S. was "deeply concerned" about the sentences and that officials would "engage in all possible channels" to free the women.

Gore spokeswoman Kalee Kreider said the former vice president has no comment. The South Korean government also did not comment. Alanna Zahn, a spokeswoman for the journalists' families, said the family members are not currently available for any interviews.

AP

In this file photo taken on Thursday, June 4, 2009, a South Korean protester displays portraits of American journalists detained in North Korea as they shout slogans during a rally at a public park in Seoul. North Korea's state news agency says the country's top court has convicted the two U.S. journalists and sentenced them to 12 years in labor prison.

NKorea bans ships from coastal waters

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has warned fishermen and boat captains to stay away from the country's east coast, Japan's coast guard said Monday, in another sign that the regime is planning to fire medium-range missiles in that area as expected.

But it does not appear ready to test-fire an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the U.S. from a newly built site despite recent news reports that such a launch may be imminent, South Korean media said.

The medium-range missiles, which put Japan in striking range, are expected to be fired from the coastal town of Anbyon as part of a series of provocative moves following North Korea's May 25 nuclear test and a flurry of short-range missile launches.

On Monday, Japan's coast guard said it picked up a North Korean radio signal banning ships from waters off the North's coastal city of Wonsan near Anbyon from June 10-30.

Seoul's mass-circulation JoongAng Ilbo newspaper also said Monday that there have been brisk movements of up to six vehicles mounted with mobile missile launchers at Anbyon over the past week.

The paper and other reports have said that the North could fire Rodong missiles with a range of about 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) or a newly deployed missile that can travel as far as 1,860 miles (3,000 kilometers). Both types of missiles have Japan within striking range.

The paper cited unnamed South Korean government and intelligence officials.

Over on the North's west coast near China, the reclusive regime is said to be assembling an intercontinental ballistic missile.

JoongAng Ilbo said there have been constant movements of personnel and vehicles at the western site, but a missile-tracking radar system has not been installed there yet, indicating a launch is not imminent.

Poll: Arroyo least trusted Filipino official

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Nearly one in two Filipinos are dissatisfied with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, but her vice president emerged as the most trusted public official in an independent poll published Monday.

Arroyo has consistently ranked as the least popular of four Philippine presidents following the 1986 ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos. She has survived four coup attempts and four impeachment bids amid allegations of electoral fraud and bribery scandals.

Arroyo

Independent pollster Pulse Asia found that 46 percent of respondents disapproved of Arroyo, while 26 percent approved. The rest were undecided.

Vice President Noli de Castro, a former broadcast journalist who has focused on improving the lives of overseas workers and their families, emerged as the most trusted official. Some 53 percent of respondents approved of him; 21 percent disapproved, and 26 percent were undecided.

The survey polled 1,200 adults in face-to-face interviews from May 4-17. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The other officials appearing in the poll were House Speaker Prospero Nograles, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Opponents say recent attempts by the House of Representatives to amend the constitution with the aim of scrapping term limits may be designed to allow Arroyo to stay in office beyond the end of her term in June 2010. Presidents can serve one six-year term.

Arroyo has denied any hand in the widely criticized move and says the May 2010 elections will move forward. But the opposition vowed to hold a huge rally in the capital Manila on Wednesday amid fresh coup rumors.

Last week, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said that Arroyo's administration would lose credibility in the international community if the elections were not held.

De Castro has topped early surveys of likely presidential candidates next year. He is expected to be endorsed by Arroyo's political party, but he has faced criticism for being aloof and silent on allegations that Arroyo cheated in the 2004 polls.

Lawyer says China must free dissident writer

BEIJING (AP)—The lawyer for a prominent Chinese writer secretly detained six months ago called on authorities Monday to free his client or formally charge him.

Dissident author Liu Xiaobo was taken away by police on Dec. 8, a day before the publication of a document he co-authored appealing for sweeping political reform in China.

He has not been charged. A rights group says police have been keeping him in a suburban Beijing hotel.

His lawyer, Mo Shaoping, said authorities must release or formally charge Liu because China's criminal law limits the kind of soft detention he has been under to six months.

"Today is the six-month mark," said Mo. "At the very least, they need to use some other kind of measure to keep him, such as issuing a formal notice of arrest or detention, or releasing him on bail. If not, then he needs to be let go."

Mo said he will submit a letter to authorities formally arguing for Liu's release. He said he does not know where Liu is being held.

The San Francisco-based Dui Hua Foundation said in a statement that Liu was being detained in a hotel in the Beijing suburbs. The hotel was not named.

Liu, 53, is a former university professor who spent 20 months in jail for joining the 1989 student-led protests in Tiananmen Square.

He was among more than 300 lawyers, writers, scholars and artists who signed "Charter 08" in December calling for a new constitution guaranteeing human rights, election of public officials, freedom of religion and expression, and an end to the Communist Party's hold over the military, courts and government.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban feel Pakistani wrath after mosque blast

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Hundreds of Pakistani tribesmen furious over a deadly suicide bombing at a mosque laid siege to several Taliban strongholds in their troubled northwestern region, killing at least 11 militants, officials said Sunday. The weekend clashes appeared to be the latest evidence of growing anti-Taliban sentiment in U.S.-allied Pakistan, a shift that comes as suicide attacks have surged and the military wages an offensive in the nearby Swat Valley. The attack on the mosque left 33 worshippers dead and wounded dozens more during Friday prayers, angering residents of the Haya Gai area of Upper Dir district who have had tensions and minor clashes with local militants for months.

Weather hampers search for US climbers in China

BEIJING (AP)—High winds and blizzards hampered the search Monday for two U.S. mountain climbers after the body of a third American climber was found buried in an avalanche in southwestern China, an official said. A nine-person rescue team, including two Americans, started up Mount Gongga early Monday, the third such effort since the three climbers disappeared in Sichuan province late last month, said Gao Min, a spokesman for the Sichuan Mountaineering Association. "Our search team has encountered extremely challenging conditions today with the intense winds, potential for avalanches and heavy snowfall," Gao said. "Right now, we're just counting on search devices, such as metal detectors, to help us."

Thai insurgents launch attacks in south, killing 2

BANGKOK (AP)—Islamic insurgents shot dead a villager and then detonated a car bomb as a crowd gathered, killing one and wounding 19 in Thailand's restive south on Sunday, police said. Police Maj. Col. Manop Wiwatthanaviroj said insurgents shot a resident patrolling a village Sunday morning in the Yingo district of Narathiwat, one of three mostly Muslim provinces near the Malaysian border. A few minutes later, a car bomb went off in the same area, killing one villager and wounding 19 others, including a local government official, Manop said.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexican day care deaths stir anger at safety rules

HERMOSILLO, Mexico (AP)—As the day care swiftly filled with smoke, caretakers, neighbors and parents fought to evacuate 142 children—many of them babies and toddlers—through a single working exit until rescue crews arrived. No fire alarm or sprinkler system had gone off, according to witnesses. One mother said a second door to the day care was bolted shut and nobody could find the key. Forty-two children were killed in the devastating fire, and a total of 33 adults and children remain hospitalized, Daniel Karam, the director of Mexico's Social Security Institute, which outsourced services to the privately run center, said Sunday night.

Lebanon's pro-Western majority declares victory

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon's pro-Western coalition declared victory early Monday, as local television stations reported the faction had successfully fended off a serious challenge by the Shiite militant group Hezbollah and its allies to grab the majority in parliament. Official results for Sunday's election were not expected until later Monday, but the winners were already celebrating by shooting in the air, setting off fireworks and driving around in honking motorcades. The election was an early test of President Barack Obama's efforts to forge Middle East peace. A win by Hezbollah would have boosted the influence of its backers Iran and Syria and risked pushing one of the region's most volatile nations into international isolation and possibly into more conflict with Israel.

Britain's Brown faces showdown with rebels

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown heads into a key showdown Monday with rebel lawmakers after projections that his governing Labour Party has produced its worst-ever results in European and local elections. Mutineers who seek Brown's ouster are likely to make a decision on whether to try to depose the struggling leader after he holds a meeting with lawmakers Monday. According to predictions based on early results, Brown's Labour looked likely to be forced into fourth place in European election voting in Britain, while support for the party slumped to a record low in votes for town and city hall assemblies.

15 more bodies found in Atlantic Air France crash

RECIFE, Brazil (AP)—Search ships methodically worked through debris from a doomed Air France jet Sunday, recovering 15 more bodies near the spot where the Airbus A330 is believed to have gone down a week ago.

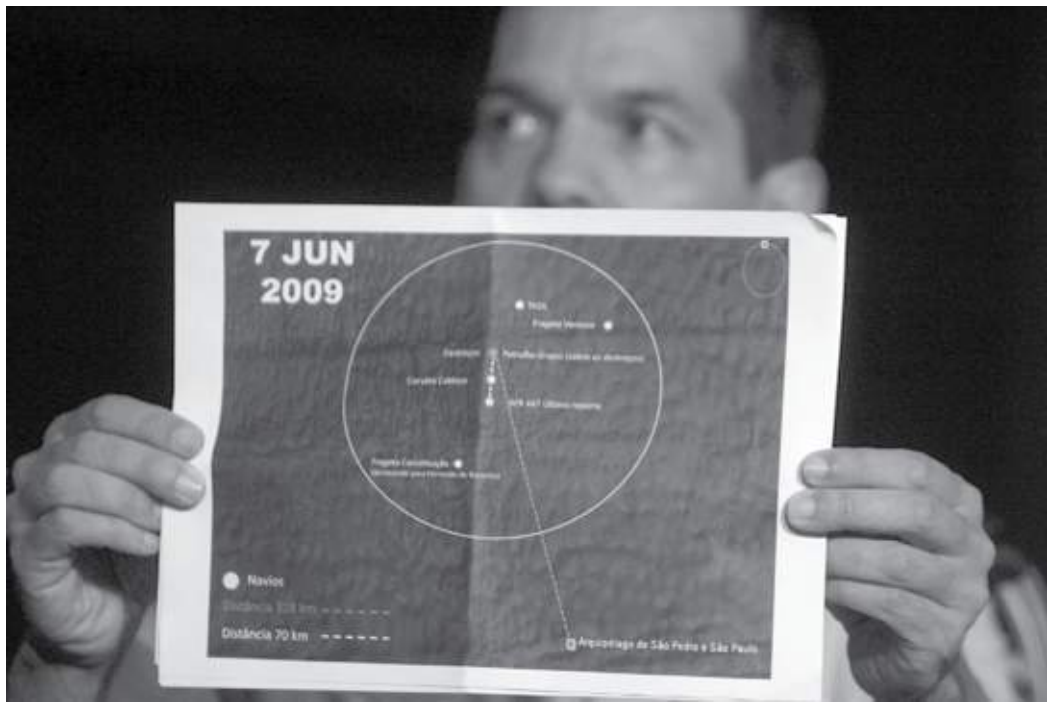
Two bodies were recovered Saturday, and Brazilian and French ships picked up the others on Sunday after pilots participating in a grid search reported additional sightings. The bodies have been found in an area about 45 miles (70 kilometers) from where the jet sent out messages signaling electrical failures and loss of cabin pressure.

"We're navigating through a sea of debris," Brazilian Navy Capt. Giucemar Tabosa Cardoso said.

Brazil's military was not releasing detailed information about bodies or debris that have been spotted from the air but not taken aboard ships, after it was criticized last week for mistakenly identifying sea trash as a cargo pallet from the plane.

Flight 447 disappeared and likely broke up in midair in turbulent weather May 31 during a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris with 228 people aboard—all now presumed dead.

The investigation is increasingly focused on whether external instruments on the Airbus A330 may have iced over, confusing speed sensors and leading computers to set the plane's speed too fast or slow—a potentially deadly mistake.



AP

Brazil's Air Force official Henry Munhoz, shows a graphic of the area where bodies from the Air France 447 flight have been recovered during a press conference in Recife, northeastern Brazil, Sunday, June 7, 2009.

The French agency investigating the disaster said airspeed instruments on the plane had not been replaced as the maker had recommended, but cautioned that it was too early to draw conclusions about what role that may have played in the crash.

The agency, BEA, said the plane received inconsistent airspeed readings from different instruments as it struggled in a massive thunderstorm.

France is leading the investigation into the cause and will try to recover the plane's black box data and voice recorders, which could reveal why the jet crashed. Brazilian officials are focusing solely on the recovery of victims and plane wreckage.

In Brazil, Air Force Col. Henry Munhoz said nine bodies have been recovered by Brazilian authorities: four men, four women and one that was impossible to identify by gender. He said he did not have information about the genders of the eight bodies recovered by French military helicopters that were transferred to a French ship.

The search is focusing on several hundred square miles (square kilometers) roughly 400 miles (640 kilometers) northeast of the Fernando de Noronha islands off Brazil's northern coast—where Air France Flight 447 emitted its last signals.

Munhoz and Cardoso declined comment on the condition of the recovered bodies, saying that information would be too emotionally painful for relatives.

Authorities also announced that searchers spotted two airplane seats, debris with Air France's logo, and recovered dozens of structural components from the plane. They had already recovered jet wing fragments.

Munhoz said there is "no more doubt" that the wreckage is from Flight 447.

Hundreds of personal items belonging to the passengers have been recovered, but Munhoz said authorities would not immediately identify them. Relatives of the victims were devastated by an announcement Saturday that a laptop computer and briefcase containing a plane ticket had been found.

"We don't want to cause them more suffering," Munhoz said.

The bodies and plane wreckage were being transported by Brazilian and French ships and should arrive Tuesday at the Fernando de Noronha islands, where the military has set up a staging post for the search operation. From there, remains and debris will be taken to the northeastern coastal city of Recife for identification.

Shootout kills 16 gunmen, two soldiers in Acapulco

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—It was a shootout straight from Hollywood in the former playground of its biggest stars: Outlaws holed up in a hillside mansion fought heavily armed Mexican soldiers with a rain of gunfire and grenades that had tourists cowering in hotels nearby.

Roughly 3,000 shots and 50 explosions marked the four-hour battle late Saturday that left 16 gunmen and two soldiers dead. Nine other people were wounded, including three bystanders.

More than a dozen Mexican tourists were evacuated from a neighboring hotel strip frozen in the 1950s, when Elizabeth Taylor held one of her many weddings in Acapulco and John Wayne and "Tarzan" star Johnny Weissmuller threw lavish parties at Los Flamingos Hotel less than 100 yards (meters) from where gunfire broke out.

Cindy Pelaquin and Michelle Johnson, both of Boston, were watching the famous Acapulco cliff divers less than a mile away. They saw the military roadblocks but heard nothing.

"We were just lucky I suppose," said Johnson, a Boston nurse.

One neighbor said it sounded like fireworks. But a Mexican tourist, whose group had just arrived from the Mexico City area, immediately recognized the sound of gunshots and dove under a hotel bed.

The battle erupted after soldiers received a tip that a group of armed men were gathered at a gated house in a seedy section of Acapulco where working-class homes bleed into 1950s mansions. One hotel across from the street from the shootout offers three-hour stays for 30 pesos, about $2.25.

Several gunmen tried to flee but crashed their car into a military Hummer that was blocking the gate. At one point, more armed men with grenades arrived to reinforce the men in the house, but they died in the shooting, said an army colonel, who led the operation and spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

Inside, soldiers found four men bound and shirtless who claimed they were Guerrero state police officers being held hostage. The soldiers confiscated 47 guns, grenades and ammunition, as well as several cars, including a Mercedes Benz.

Five people inside the house were detained, including the four alleged officers, the Defense Department said in a statement.

Iraq: Bombing of minibus in Shiite area kills 7

BAGHDAD (AP)—A bomb tore through a minibus during morning rush hour Monday in a mainly Shiite area in Baghdad, killing at least seven people and wounding 24, Iraqi officials said.

The blast was a grim reminder of the major challenge facing Iraqi forces three weeks ahead of the June 30 deadline for U.S. troops to withdraw from urban areas.

The bomb was attached to the minibus in the southern area of Abu Dshir, a Shiite enclave in the mainly Sunni neighborhood of Dora, police said.

The explosion left a crater at the entrance of the bus station where commuters were gathered to catch rides to different parts of the city.

An Associated Press photographer saw the charred hulk of the minibus and three other burned-out cars. Security forces sealed off the area while ambulances rushed the wounded to the hospital.

Police and hospital officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information, gave the death toll and said 24 people also were wounded.

Both districts have faced brutal sectarian bloodshed in past years but have seen a sharp decline in violence following a Sunni revolt against insurgent groups such as al-Qaida in Iraq and a Shiite militia cease-fire.

U.S.-Iraqi forces also increased their presence and cordoned areas off with concrete walls and checkpoints in the citywide push to quell the violence that pushed the country to the brink of civil war.

With the decline in violence, Iraqi authorities have taken down many of the concrete walls in a bid to restore a sense of normalcy in the capital.

But several recent high-profile bombings have raised concerns about the readiness of Iraqi forces to take over their own security.

Some militants respond positively to Obama speech

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—From Lebanese guerrillas to Saudi preachers, Islamic extremists have warned followers not to be taken in by President Barack Obama's conciliatory words—a sign that some may be nervous about losing support if animosity toward the U.S. fades.

But even moderates warn Obama will have to quickly follow his call for a new relationship with the Islamic world with bold actions to prevent a disappointed backlash.

In his speech in Cairo Thursday, Obama listed confronting "violent extremism" as the top priority in addressing tensions between the U.S. and Muslims. He urged the Islamic world to reject radical ideologies and promised to work aggressively to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He also said the U.S. does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlement in the West Bank and endorsed a Palestinian state.

There are already some indications his words are having the desired effect of undercutting extremists. A militant leader in Egypt called on the Taliban to respond positively to Obama's gestures, and Hamas militants in Gaza say they are ready "to build on this speech."

Obama may have managed to "plant the seed of doubt in some minds," said Robert Malley, senior analyst at the International Crisis Group think tank. "There was enough ... that represented openings for those who wanted openings."

Yet Obama's eloquent promises were seen as only a small step toward halting the region's drift toward militancy, accelerated in recent years by the U.S. invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan and Washington's perceived pro-Israel bias.

He will be most closely watched on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly his push to get Israel to comply with a settlement freeze. That is something no U.S. administration before him has accomplished.

Overdrive

Tailfins, V-8s and Corvettes:

The wake of an icon

AP

This undated file photo released by General Motors shows a 1953 Chevrolet Corvette.

BY JOHN PORRETTO
AP BUSINESS WRITER

For generations, General Motors fueled America's love affair with the automobile, building cars that defined their owners' status in life and the industrial might of the nation. But less than a year after entering its second century, the company that survived wars, international rivalry and even the Great Depression is being driven by the government into bankruptcy court.

The GM that helped move the world from horses to Chevys and Cadillacs filed for bankruptcy protection last week. The new GM that emerges sometime in the future will be leaner—unsaddled from much of its debt and labor cost disadvantages that contributed to tens of billions of dollars of losses. It will also be almost three-quarters owned by U.S. taxpayers.

It will be a fraction of what was once the mightiest corporation in the world.

"We throw around the word iconic way too much these days, but General Motors really does deserve that name," said Robert Thompson, a Syracuse University professor who studies American popular culture. "General Motors has become a metaphor, in many ways, for the industrial era of the United States."

■■■

The company that Billy Durant started on Sept. 16, 1908, with the Buick nameplate quickly absorbed other carmakers—Oldsmobile, Cadillac, GMC, Chevrolet and what is now Pontiac—within three years. Saturn, Hummer, Saab and other brands were added over the years.

GM introduced the fully automatic transmission, dropped the first V-8 engine into Chevy and put tailfins on the Cadillac. The ultimate muscle car, the Corvette, was introduced in 1953. Its engineers even developed the first mechanical heart-lung machine.

GM inspired crooners to sing, "In My Merry Oldsmobile" and "GTO." When Burt Reynolds outfoxed Jackie Gleason's bumbling southern Sheriff Buford T. Justice in the 1977 movie "Smokey and the Bandit," he did it in a black Pontiac Trans Am with a gold firebird on the hood. And Don McClean drove a Chevy to the levee in "American Pie."

The company sold dreams to drivers of all ages. The first Cadillac, for many, was a watermark of success, and the brand became the metaphor for top-quality goods.

"Your lifestyle, and how well you were achieving, could often be measured by what kind of GM car you were driving at a given time," Thompson said. "Cadillac meant luxury, it meant you'd achieved the American dream."

■■■

For computer engineer Tim Barnes, the American dream is still the Corvette, the car that he fell in love with as a 15-year-old grocery clerk. The first Corvette rolled off the Chevrolet assembly line on June 30, 1953, in Flint, Mich. The car, now made in Bowling Green, Ky., has starred in movies, inspired singers and endured for 50 years.

The Corvette's sleek, low-profile carbon fiber- and steel-body still turns heads on roads dominated by cookie-cutter sedans.

"It was the shape, it was the aura, it was the performance," said Barnes, 55, of Thornton, Colo. "It was the epitome of what a sports car should be."

His first was a 1967 convertible—"I still know the VIN (number), and if I ever come across it, I'll buy it again."

He met and married his first wife while working on Corvettes with a friend. His first son was brought home from the hospital in a Corvette, and he expects a Corvette will be parked in his garage when he dies.

For retiree Chuck Lippmann, 66, of Bergenfield, N.J., it's the 1955 Chevy sedan, a two-door, red-and-white model he has owned for about five years. It reminded him of his youth and was the only brand that he liked.

"Growing up, my father always had GM products," he said. "I just kind of latched onto the Chevy."

■■■

In 1979, GM employed 618,000 Americans, more than any other company. It became so ingrained in American culture that its late 1980s advertising boasted that Chevrolet was "The Heartbeat of America."

By then, though, Americans also had become suspect of its quality. GM cars broke down. They rusted. There were stories of workers building cars with Coke bottles in the doors. At the same time, Honda and Toyota put out cars that seemed to hum along forever, almost maintenance free.

AP

In this Dec. 31, 1958 file photo, Johnny Unitas of the Baltimore Colts NFL champions, sits behind the wheel of his new fire-engine red Chevrolet Corvette in New York.

GM and the rest of Detroit started neglecting their cars, instead focusing on pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles with profit margins high enough to cover the ever-growing cost of former workers' pensions and health care.

During the late 1990s, when the economy was booming, GM sold more trucks and SUVs than ever before, and its profit hit a record $6.7 billion in 1997.

■■■

Perhaps the demise of GM's storied Oldsmobile brand is indicative of the company's problems.

Oldsmobile was among the pioneers in using chrome-plated trim and the mass production of automatic transmissions. It gave drivers the Eighty Eight series, the front-wheel-drive Toronado and the Cutlass.

The brand grew steadily over the years, and in 1977 it became the first GM division outside Chevrolet to sell more than 1 million cars. Its high point was 1985, when it built 1,168,982 vehicles.

As baby boomers aged, GM got older, too. Lacking entry-level small cars that would attract younger buyers, the average age of the company's customer skyrocketed. In 2003, the average Oldsmobile owner was 50 years old. GM tried to counter the stereotype with an ad campaign that this was "not your father's Oldsmobile."

It didn't work. Sales began to fall and GM was unable to make a profit with the aging brand. GM ended Oldsmobile production with the 2004 model year.

GM still hasn't shed the problem of aging buyers, and marketing campaigns and new products have done little to change that. Last year, the average buyer of a Buick sedan was 66.

■■■

By the turn of the millennium, GM had grown too large, with too many employees, factories, brands and models. Like crosstown rival Chrysler, which is already reorganizing under bankruptcy protection, GM had a loyal truck following, but the image of its cars had been tarnished.

Even in years where Americans bought more than 16 million vehicles, the companies both lost billions.

When gas prices crept up to $4 per gallon, GM scrambled to roll out more fuel-efficient cars, but it didn't shift quickly enough. Add the wide-reaching recession, and U.S. auto sales fell by nearly half. GM and Chrysler collapsed under the tremendous weight of their fixed costs.

GM's U.S. employment amounted to just 88,000 earlier this year, and that number is likely to shrink even more as the company continues to reshape itself.

Herb Chambers, who has sold GM and other vehicles in New England for a quarter century, said the company certainly has to take much of the blame. He says GM underestimated the potential of Japanese automakers when they began to grab U.S. market share in the 1970s and '80s with smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The numbers speak for themselves: GM's U.S. market share has fallen from a peak of more than 50 percent in 1962 to about 19 percent these days.

"Costs got out of control, they weren't staying up to date with technology and they weren't delivering quality," said Chambers, whose Boston-based company is one of the nation's largest car dealers. "Meanwhile, that's what the Japanese do."

A big concern about the bankruptcy filing is whether it would taint the company and damage sales. So far, Chrysler's foray into bankruptcy hasn't driven customers away.

Chambers certainly isn't counting GM out yet. Detroit automakers have a history of making comebacks during hard times in the past.

"If I were going to make a statue of American industry, and I had choose one company, I suppose U.S. Steel would be a candidate," Syracuse's Thompson said. "AT&T would be a candidate. IBM would be a candidate. But in the end it would have to be a car company, and it would have to be Ford or GM, and I'd have to give it to GM."

AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher and AP Business Writer Sandy Shore contributed to this report.

Life & Style

By MICHAEL KUCHWARA
AP DRAMA WRITER

AP

From left to right, David Alvarez, Kiril Kulish, and Trent Kowalik accept the award for Best Performance by a leading Actor in a Musical, for their shared role in the show "Billy Elliot the Musical" at the 63rd annual Tony Awards in New York, Sunday, June 7, 2009.

'Billy Elliot' wins 10 Tonys; 'Carnage' best play

NEW YORK (AP) — "Billy Elliot," the big British musical about a coal miner's son who dreams to dance, bowled over Broadway on Sunday, winning 10 Tonys, including best musical and a unique best actor prize for the three young performers who share the title character.

The trio—David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik and Kiril Kulish—traded off thank-yous during their acceptance speech, shyly thanking people associated with the show only by their first name. They also acknowledged siblings and parents. Finally, Kulish told the cheering crowd at Radio City Music Hall: "We want to say to all the kids out there who might want to dance, 'Never give up.'"

"Billy Elliot" collected eight other awards, including director of a musical, book of a musical and choreography, but its composer Elton John was upset for best score. That award was taken by "Next to Normal"—which seemed to stun "Normal" composer Tom Kitt and lyricist Brian Yorkey. Alice Ripley, who portrays battling mental illness in "Next to Normal," received the actress musical prize.

"God of Carnage," Yasmina Reza's savage comedy of manners about two liberal, middle-class couples whose children get into a fight, was named best play and picked up two other major awards, one for its director, Matthew Warchus, and the other for actress Marcia Gay Harden.

Reza, who previously won a best-play Tony for "Art," said: "Maybe you missed my accent; you wanted to hear it again. I'm very grateful for all the people who gave their best for the production."

"The Norman Conquests," Alan Ayckbourn's trilogy, received the revival-play prize, while "Hair," the iconic 1960s rock extravaganza roared to a win in the musical-revival category.

The director/musical award went to Stephen Daldry of "Billy Elliot."

"I have been blessed in my life to spend the majority of last 10 years of my life working on the story of 'Billy Elliot,'" said Daldry, who called it "a long, extraordinary journey."

He said the award belonged to everyone connected to the show and especially to "three great gifts of Broadway, our three little Billys."

"Billy" also received prizes for featured actor (Gregory Jbara), sets, lighting, sound and a tie with "Next to Normal" for best orchestrations, which Kitt shared with Michael Starobin.

Geoffrey Rush's extravagant portrait of a dying monarch in "Exit the King" took the top actor prize.

"I want to thank Manhattan audiences for proving that French existential absurdist tragicomedy rocks," Rush said.

Angela Lansbury received her fifth Tony, this time for her performance as the dotty medium Madame Arcati in a revival of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit." Her win in the featured-actress category tied the record for acting prizes held by Julie Harris, who has five plus a special lifetime achievement award given in 2002.

"Who would have thought," the 83-year-old Lansbury began, drowned out by a standing ovation. "Who knew that (at) this time in my life that I should be presented with this lovely, lovely award. I feel deeply grateful."

Lansbury gave a special lifetime achievement award to Jerry Herman, composer of Hello, Dolly!" and "Mame," which starred Lansbury.

"Did you know that I was born on this street and my mother thought there was something special that her hospital room had a great view of the Winter Garden marquee," Herman said. "Well, here I am 77 years later, still on 50th Street but enjoying the ultimate moment of my life."

"The only way I know how to say thank you to hundreds of thousands of people who helped get me here is to say one enormous heartfelt thank you to every soul who has touched my life in the musical theater," said the composer, who then quoted a lyric from his "La Cage aux Folles": "The best of life is now, is now."

An emotional Liza Minnelli accepted the prize for special theatrical event for her show "Liza's at The Palace."

"This is exquisite," Minnelli said, asking for a list of people to thank because she didn't think she was going to win. "Lastly, I want to thank my parents and the greatest gift they ever gave me, Kay Thompson," her godmother. Minnelli recreated part of Thompson's club act as part of her Palace entertainment.

Roger Robinson's portrayal of a mystical shamanlike character in "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" was honored with the featured-acting prize.

"It has taken me 46 years to come from that seat, up these steps, to this microphone," said Robinson, who thanked his mother in Bellevue, Wash., "who's 98 years old ... who encouraged me and raised seven children single-handedly."

Featured actress-musical went to Karen Olivo as the spitfire Anita in the revival of "West Side Story."

"I'm completely unprepared for this. ... I just want to dedicate this to everyone who has a dream," Olivo said, thanking the production's 91-year-old director, Arthur Laurents, and then dissolving in tears.

The Tonys twittered this year, with Mark Indelicato of "Ugly Betty" as the night's uber-tweeter from backstage. He offered such timely nuggets as "NPH's (host Neil Patrick Harris) favorite beverage while warming up for the start of Tonys? RED BULL, natch!" Jane Fonda, nominated for lead actress in a play, offered: "The trick is to be Zen about it. Winning is sometimes not the prize."

Bret Michaels injured himself in the show's opening production number when he rocked it out with a number from "Rock of Ages." The extent of his injury was not immediately known.

Broadway had a surprisingly robust 2008-2009 season.

Attendance during the 2008-2009 season slipped a bit (to 12.15 million from 12.27 million the previous year) but not as much as was feared because of the recession. And grosses for plays and musicals actually were a bit higher than a year earlier, setting a record of $943.3 million.

Forty-three shows opened during the season, the highest number of new productions since 50 opened during the 1982-83 season.

The awards were voted on in 27 competitive categories by more than 800 members of the theatrical community, including producers, actors and journalists. The Tonys are presented by the League and the American Theatre Wing, a nonprofit service organization. The Wing founded the Tonys in 1947.

TONY AWARD WINNERS

© The Associated Press

PLAY: "**God of Carnage**."
MUSICAL: "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
REVIVAL OF A MUSICAL: "**Hair**."
BOOK OF A MUSICAL: **Lee Hall**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
ORIGINAL SCORE (MUSIC AND/OR LYRICS) WRITTEN FOR THE THEATRE: "**Next to Normal.**"
REVIVAL OF A PLAY: "**The Norman Conquests**."
SPECIAL THEATRICAL EVENT: "**Liza's at The Palace**."
PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTOR IN A PLAY: **Geoffrey Rush**, "**Exit the King**."
PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTRESS IN A PLAY: **Marcia Gay Harden**, "**God of Carnage**."
PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTOR IN A MUSICAL: **David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik, and Kiril Kulish**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL: **Alice Ripley**, "**Next to Normal**."
PERFORMANCE BY A FEATURED ACTOR IN A PLAY: **Roger Robinson**, "**Joe Turner's Come and Gone**."
PERFORMANCE BY A FEATURED ACTRESS IN A PLAY: **Angela Lansbury**, "**Blithe Spirit**."
PERFORMANCE BY A FEATURED ACTOR IN A MUSICAL: **Gregory Jbara**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
PERFORMANCE BY A FEATURED ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL: **Karen Olivo**, "**West Side Story**."
SCENIC DESIGN OF A PLAY: **Derek McLane**, "**33 Variations**."
SCENIC DESIGN OF A MUSICAL: **Ian MacNeil**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
COSTUME DESIGN OF A PLAY: **Anthony Ward**, "**Mary Stuart**."
COSTUME DESIGN OF A MUSICAL: **Tim Hatley**, "**Shrek The Musical**."
LIGHTING DESIGN OF A PLAY: **Brian MacDevitt**, "**Joe Turner's Come and Gone**."
LIGHTING DESIGN OF A MUSICAL: **Rick Fisher**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
SOUND DESIGN OF A PLAY: **Gregory Clarke**, "**Equus**."
SOUND DESIGN OF A MUSICAL: **Paul Arditti**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
DIRECTION OF A PLAY: **Matthew Warchus**, "**God of Carnage**."
DIRECTION OF A MUSICAL: **Stephen Daldry**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
CHOREOGRAPHY: **Peter Darling**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**."
ORCHESTRATIONS: **Martin Koch**, "**Billy Elliot, The Musical**"; **Michael Starobin and Tom Kitt**, "**Next to Normal**."

■■■

SPECIAL TONY AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE THEATRE: **Jerry Herman**.
REGIONAL THEATRE TONY AWARD: **Signature Theatre, Arlington, Va.**
ISABELLE STEVENSON AWARD: **Phyllis Newman**.
TONY HONOR FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE THEATRE: **Shirley Herz**.

Bret Michaels injured by set piece at the Tonys

NEW YORK (AP)—Bret Michaels ran into some scenery at the Tony Awards.

Michaels, star of the reality show "Rock of Love," took to the stage with his hair-metal band Poison during the telecast's opening production number, featuring performances from the season's Broadway musicals.

They performed "Nothin' But a Good Time" with the cast of "Rock of Ages," and as Michaels exited the stage, a descending set piece smacked him on the head and knocked him - splat! - to the ground.

Tonys spokeswoman Christina Stejskal says the rocker "missed his mark." Though it looked it, he did not break his nose. Stejskal did not immediately know the extent of his injury.

"Rock of Ages" celebrates 1980s hair music and features songs by Journey and other bands. It stars Constantine Maroulis as an aspiring rock star.

Carradine family takes action on probe, photos

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Carradine's family members, dissatisfied with Thai investigators and "profoundly disturbed" by the publication of a forensics photo in a Bangkok tabloid, are seeking help from the FBI and an independent pathologist and have threatened legal action against any media outlet that reprints images of the actor in death.

Keith Carradine has filed reports with the FBI that could lead to the agency's involvement, said Mark Geragos, attorney for the "Kung Fu" actor's half-brother. The FBI confirmed that Carradine's family had contacted the agency.

The family will also seek an independent autopsy by famed forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Baden to determine whether another person could have been involved, Geragos said. Results of an autopsy performed Friday in Bangkok were not expected for at least three weeks.

A chambermaid found Carradine's body Thursday at Bangkok's Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel. Thai authorities said they have all but ruled out foul play, based on surveillance footage and interviews with hotel staff that indicate no one was in Carradine's room before he died, said Col. Somprasong Yenthuam, who is heading the investigation.

A grainy photo published on the Saturday cover of the tabloid Thai Rath shows a naked body suspended from a clothes bar in a hotel closet, hands apparently bound together above the head and feet on the floor. The face is blacked out and other areas are obscured.

The paper did not indicate the source of the image, but Thai police said they believed it was a picture of Carradine's body taken by a forensics team.

AP

A copy of Thailand's Daily XPRESS newspaper reporting the obituary of actor David Carradine, is seen at a newsstand in Bangkok on Friday, June 5, 2009.

Keith Carradine said in a statement that the family was "profoundly disturbed by the release in Thailand of photographs taken at the scene of David Carradine's death," and threatened legal action against further distribution.

"The family wants it understood that, per attorney Mark Geragos, any persons, publications or media outlets will be fully prosecuted for invasion of privacy and causing severe emotional distress if the photos are published," the statement read.

The actor's family hopes the body will arrive in Los Angeles by Monday, Geragos said, but he did not give specifics.

Geragos said the family decided to intervene because of conflicting information about Carradine's death and a lack of direct information from Thai authorities.

"All we really know is not much more than what the public knows, and that's disturbing," Geragos said.

Agents were checking with the FBI's legal attache at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to see if Thai authorities "are requesting or would welcome FBI assistance in this matter." FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said the agency generally only gets involved in death investigations overseas if a crime is suspected.

Investigators initially said Carradine's body was found "naked, hanging in a closet," causing them to suspect he had taken his own life. But his family, friends and representatives have said they doubt the 72-year-old actor would have killed himself.

Police later said the actor may have died from accidental suffocation or heart failure after revealing that he was found with a rope tied around his wrist, neck and genitals - leading to speculation that Carradine may have engaged in a dangerous form of sex play known as auto-erotic asphyxiation.

But Geragos said he expects the examination by the New York-based Baden, a celebrity among forensic pathologists who frequently consults on high-profile cases, will clear up many unanswered questions.

"It's an amazing thing what a good pathologist can accomplish," Geragos said.

Carradine flew to Thailand last week and began work on a film titled "Stretch" two days before his death. His friends and associates told CNN's Larry King he had a happy marriage, recently bought a new car, and had several films lined up after he finished work in Bangkok.

A martial arts practitioner himself, Carradine was best known for the U.S. TV series "Kung Fu," which aired from 1972-75. He played Kwai Chang Caine, an orphan who was raised by Shaolin monks and fled China for the American West after killing the emperor's nephew in retaliation for the murder of his kung fu master.

Death and Funeral Announcement

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October 10, 1916 – June 04, 2009

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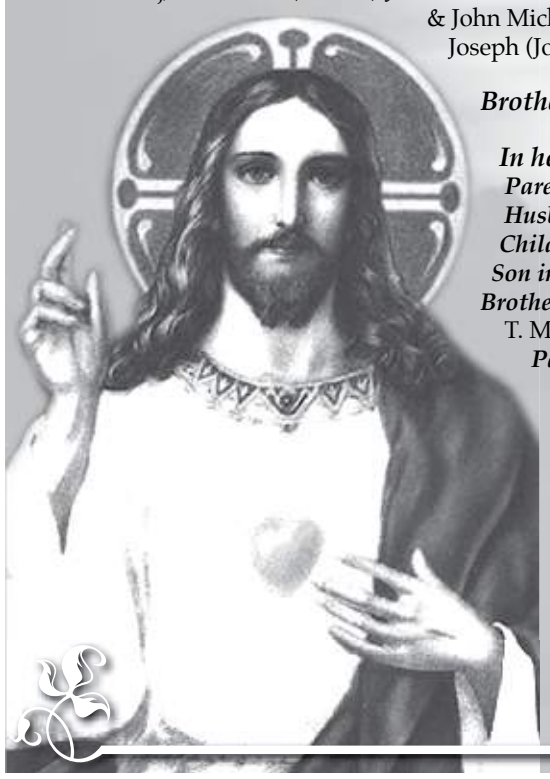

Brother: Nicolas Quidachai Muna & Margarita Camacho Muna

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: Jose Duenas Muna & Ana Quidachai Muna

Husband: Pedro Roberto Camacho

Children: Vidal Muna Camacho & Celina Camacho Concepcion

Son in-law: Lawrence Larson

Brothers/Sisters: Joaquin & Magdalena A. Muna, Ana & Joaquin Cabrera, Vicente & Soledad C. Muna, Josepha & Jose Leon Guerrero, Jose & Cresencia T. Muna, Cornelia Q. Muna, Juan & Dolores Muna, Victoria & Antonio M. Benavente

Parents in- law: Jose Palacios Camacho & Rosa Roberto Camacho

Brothers/Sisters in-law: Carmen Roberto Camacho, Gregorio Roberto Camacho, Remedio & Efrain Matsunaga, Dolores & Jesus Unpingco, Andrea Roberto Camacho

Daily Mass is being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am. Nightly Rosary is being held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 pm.

On Friday, June 12, 2009, viewing and last respects may be paid at Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel beginning at 7:30 am.

At 9:30 am, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am. Interment follows at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS.

Children & Family

Refreshed Vardalos returns to big screen

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Her 40-pound weight loss isn't—insists Nia Vardalos—some plan to land herself in People magazine, amid Valerie Bertinelli, Melissa Joan Hart and myriad new celebrity mothers proving their moral and genetic superiority by dropping their baby weight within days of giving birth.

"I find it strange being mentioned as some sort of accomplishment or triumph," says Vardalos, the unlikely writer-star of the unlikely box-office smash of 2002, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." It's only weight loss, after all, and the only reason she bothered was because "I had to. I had a blood sugar issue," as well as thyroid disease, and diabetes in her family tree, and so her doctor insisted.

"To be told you have to do something, what a bummer," she says.

It's clear that Vardalos doesn't like being told what to do or adhering to some Hollywood conventions. This is the woman who wrote her own ticket into Hollywood, after being infamously told by an agent that she wasn't pretty enough to be a leading lady or fat enough to be a character actress.

"I'm like this every woman in terms of my looks," Vardalos says over a glass of iced tea. "I had to write my scripts in the first place because I don't look like Nicole Kidman. I continue to write parts I want to play."

In person, the actress radiates a kind of sunny, albeit definitely determined, optimism. Her laugh is ready and enveloping.

At 46, Vardalos returns to the screen this summer after a three-year absence, with two romantic comedies. In "My Life in Ruins" (in theaters Friday), Vardalos plays a burned-out tour guide, resigned to a bus trip from hell around Greece with a disparate bunch of tourists, who falls for a Greek bus driver. In "I Hate Valentine's Day" (July 3), which she also wrote and directed, she stars as a snappy, commitment-phobic florist who will date men only five times before a mandated breakup, a plan that goes awry when John Corbett (her "Greek Wedding" costar) opens a restaurant on her street.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Nia Vardalos is back on the big screen in "My Life in Ruins," and "I Hate Valentine's Day," her directorial debut.

As she notes, "In the movies, you often see the average-looking guy with the incredibly attractive woman. In my movies you see the average-looking woman with the super hot John Corbett. I'm happy to make those movies for all of us women. Guess what? We need people like me on screen. That's what movies are. You go and escape for a sec."

One of the themes of "My Life in Ruins" is a woman who has lost her kefi, the Greek word for life force or passion. It's an idea that clearly resonated when Vardalos read the script (which was written by "The Simpsons" writer Mike Reiss), and she later tweaked the script to accentuate it. Despite the success of "Big Fat Greek Wedding," which catapulted Vardalos from struggling unknown to Oscar-nominated star, she was hardly doing Greek dances for years after.

"I had lost my mojo a little bit," she says, before adding bluntly, "I had come to the end of a 10-year infertility battle. It knocked me on my butt. I had to just walk away.

"It was a big secret that I was keeping during all of the success of 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding,' when everyone was saying she's so lucky. I fully appreciate the luck that came my way, but I was secretly, silently praying for the simplest act in the world, to carry a child to term. Career success is empty without a family for me."

She pauses tremulously. "I think that's why I'm so joyous right now."

Last year, after wrapping "My Life in Ruins" and "I Hate Valentine's Day," Vardalos and her husband, Ian Gomez, were matched with a 3-year-old girl through an American foster care agency. It had been a long wait, with a series of disappointments as previous adoption plans had fallen through.

"I love my daughter so much," she says. "It's the reason I breathe every day."

Screenwriter Reiss is a self-admitted bus-tour junkie. He estimates he has logged some 38 bus tours including in Asia, South America and Europe. He calls travel his form of a "controlled substance" and notes "in my experience, 95 percent of my tour guides have been women and gay men. They seem enormously over-qualified. All my tour directors have been brilliant, learned. They're erudite but they're stuck finding the bathroom every two hours for all the people on the bus, handling money orders and just doing so much clerical work."

Erica Kane becoming TV's ultimate cougar

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Susan Lucci's memorable "All My Children" character is about to become TV's Ultimate Cougar.

The conniving Erica Kane, with 10 husbands down already, will fall into the arms of a much younger man on ABC's soap opera this summer. To make life a little more complicated, it's her daughter's ex-husband and ex-fiance's stepson.

Got that straight?

The soap opera's summer story line puts Lucci squarely into television's zeitgeist, now buzzing with stories about experienced women looking for younger models—as opposed to old men looking for models.

Cable's TV Land just wrapped up "The Cougar," a reality series featuring a 40-year-old blond mother of four with salivating 20-somethings competing for her hand. ABC is prepping the comedy "Cougar Town" for the fall, with former "Friends" star Courteney Cox re-entering the dating world. On CBS' "Accidentally on Purpose," Jenna Elfman has a baby with a slacker she picked up for a one-night stand.

"Certainly the fact that it is a hot topic right now makes it all that more delicious for us," said "All My Children" executive producer Julie Hanan Carruthers. "It doesn't mean that that is how we're going to tell the story."

And it's hard to find a TV character with a richer history. Kane has lived a lot since arriving in fictional Pine Valley in 1970, with a drug addiction, time in prison, a stolen embryo, a rape that resulted in a daughter, a stabbing of Husband No. 8 and many, many manipulations.

She reached double figures in husbands just two years ago.

While Demi Moore may seem the prototype cougar these days, Lucci's frame of reference leads her to Anne Bancroft's Mrs. Robinson and her famous seduction of Dustin Hoffman in "The Graduate."

In the relationship with Ryan Lavery, "I'm sure people would expect it to be the kind of story line where Erica was manipulating things," Lucci said. "But there's been zero of that."

Those involved say the idea came from the audience.

Carruthers said Lucci, 62, and the 39-year-old Cameron Mathison, who plays Ryan, have a good comic chemistry and writers were looking for a way to feature them more, although not necessarily as romantic partners. Ryan was once married to Kendall, the girl Kane gave birth to after being raped at age 14.

Erica and Ryan went on a business trip together in episodes early this spring. Their car broke down, they found a cabin in the woods, they drew separate baths and, when Erica climbed on Ryan's shoulders searching for better cell phone reception, she slipped and fell into his arms.

Zing!

Viewers noticed the chemistry and writers decided to capitalize on it.

June 22, when he kisses her on the cheek, is the first "butterfly moment," Carruthers said.

She believes the story will mean more to viewers than other TV cougar stories simply because it's been nearly 40 years of Lucci's character.

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Land of the Lost
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Will Farrell, Anna Friel
Adventure, Family, Fantasy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Has-been scientist Dr. Rick Marshall, is a man with no weapons, few skills and questionable smarts who must survive an alternate universe full of marauding dinosaurs and fantastic creatures from beyond our world. Marshall has been sucked through a space-time vortex to a place of spectacular sights known as the Land of the Lost. Coming along with him for the adventure are crack-smart research assistant Holly and a redneck souvenirist named Will.

The Hangover
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:25 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Two days before his wedding, Doug and his three buddies drive to Vegas for a blow-out night they'll never forget. But when the three groomsmen wake up the next morning with pounding headaches, they can't remember a thing. Their posh hotel suite is beyond trashed and the groom is nowhere to be found. With no clue of what happened and little time to spare, the trio must attempt to retrace their bad decisions from

★ ★ ★

Up
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Ed Asner, Jordan Nagai
Comedy, Adventure, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Carl Fredricksen is a 78 year old balloon salesman who finally fulfills his lifelong dream of a great adventure when he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America. But he discovers all too late that his biggest nightmare has stowed away on the trip—an overly optimistic 8-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell.

Terminator Salvation
Friday 4:15 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Christian Bale, Sam Worthington
Action, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Drag Me To Hell
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Alison Lohman, Justin Long
Drama, Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Angels and Demons
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:05 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05
Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Night at the Museum 2
Friday 4:10 7:15 9:40
Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40
Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Den Stiller, Amy Adams
Comedy, Sequel • Rated PG

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AP

In this image released by Disney/Pixar Films, animated characters Russell, left, and Carl Fredricksen are shown in a scene from the film, "Up."

'Up' keeps No. 1 spot with $44M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two live-action comedies were unable to bring down the animated adventure "Up." Disney and Pixar Animation's "Up" reeled in $44.2 million to remain on top of the box office for the second weekend in a row, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Warner Bros. bachelor-bash comedy "The Hangover" came in a close second with a $43.3 million debut. Will Ferrell's action comedy for Universal, "Land of the Lost," had to settle for a distant third with a $19.5 million opening.

"Up" was the first movie of Hollywood's busy summer season to take the No. 1 spot for two straight weekends. But overall revenues fell for the second weekend in a row, putting the brakes on what has been shaping up as a record revenue year for the movie business.

The top 12 movies took in $164 million, down 6 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Kung Fu Panda" opened on top with $60.2 million, according to box-office figures compiled by Hollywood.com.

For the year, Hollywood has taken in $4.3 billion, up 12.5 percent from 2008 revenues. But studios have been unable to maintain the red-hot pace of the year's first four months.

"Definitely, things have slowed," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "But there are some potential saviors on the horizon."

Three big sequels—"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" and "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince"—open within three weeks of one another starting June 24.

With $137.3 million in the bank after just 10 days, "Up" is streaking toward the $200 million mark achieved by such previous Pixar hits as "WALL-E," "Ratatouille," "Cars" and "Toy Story 2."

Revenues for most big movies typically drop 50 percent or more in the second weekend, but the audience for "Up" was down only 35 percent from its opening. That puts it in line with "Finding Nemo," the top-grossing Disney-Pixar animated tale, said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney.

"Up" likely will finish in the top three among Pixar flicks, Viane said. Leading the Pixar slate now are "Finding Nemo" with $339.7 million, "The Incredibles" with $261.4 million and "Monsters, Inc." with $255.8 million.

1. "**Up**," $44.2 million.
2. "**The Hangover**," $43.3 million.
3. "**Land of the Lost**," $19.5 million.
4. "**Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian**," $14.7 million.
5. "**Star Trek**," $8.4 million.
6. "**Terminator Salvation**," $8.2 million.
7. "**Drag Me to Hell**," $7.3 million.
8. "**Angels & Demons**," $6.5 million.
9. "**My Life in Ruins**," $3.2 million.
10. "**Dance Flick**," $2 million.

"The Hangover" features Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis as pals on a wild Las Vegas bachelor party, during which they misplace the groom (Justin Bartha) and run into all manner of misadventures.

Warner Bros. had expected "The Hangover" to finish at No. 3 behind "Up" and "Land of the Lost." But the movie found a broad audience split almost evenly between men and women and those over and under 25, said Dan Fellman, Warner head of distribution.

"Sunday's always good for a hangover," Fellman said.

"The Hangover" was directed by Todd Phillips, whose 2003 comedy "Old School" featured a breakout role for Ferrell.

Yet Ferrell had one of his weaker openings with "Land of the Lost," inspired by the 1970s children's TV show about adventurers hurled back to an age of dinosaurs. Ferrell's new twist generally was trashed by critics as a crude update.

Sony's "Angels & Demons" took in $6.5 million domestically and $22.3 million overseas to hit $409 million overall, the first 2009 release to cross the $400 million mark worldwide.

In narrower release, Fox Searchlight's romantic comedy "My Life in Ruins" had a so-so debut of $3.2 million, coming in at No. 9. The movie stars Nia Vardalos ("My Big Fat Greek Wedding") as a discontented tour guide in Greece who unexpectedly finds love.

Focus Features' road-trip romp "Away We Go" had a strong opening in limited release, pulling in $143,260 in four theaters for a healthy average of $35,815 a cinema.

That compares to an average of $11,588 in 3,818 theaters for "Up," $13,238 in 3,269 cinemas for "The Hangover," $5,545 in 3,521 locations for "Land of the Lost" and $2,771 in 1,164 theaters for "My Life in Ruins."

"Away We Go," starring John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph as a couple searching out the best place in North America to raise a family, was directed by Sam Mendes ("American Beauty"). The film expands to more theaters Friday.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Fred Rogers scholarships go to 3 students

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three college students have received scholarships for their work on children's media projects honoring the spirit of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" host Fred Rogers.

Alexis Lauricella of Georgetown University, Mayuran Tiruchelvam of Columbia University and Thy Than of the University of California, Los Angeles, are the recipients of the scholarships presented by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation and the firm of Ernst & Young.

Each student received a $10,000 award and will be assigned TV academy mentors to work with them through the school year.

They were honored at a ceremony that included Rogers' widow, Joanne Rogers.

"These individuals have demonstrated a commitment that truly reflects the values, creativity and spirit of Fred Rogers," said Nancy Steingard, co-chair of the Television Academy Foundation education committee.

Fred Rogers, who died in 2002 at age 74, was the soft-spoken, cardigan-wearing host of "Mister Rogers Neighborhood" for more than 30 years. The show still airs on public television stations.

Lauricella, of Washington, D.C., is working on a project exploring the relationship between children's media use and learning, the academy said. Tiruchelvam, of New York, will use his scholarship to develop live-action short film and animated series.

Than, of Santa Monica, plans to create an animated short about a girl who moves to a new country with her family.

The foundation and its children's programming peer group also recognized Josh Selig, founder and president of Little Airplane Productions. Selig received the Innovation Award for creating imaginative film and TV programs for youngsters, including Noggin's "Oobi!"

The foundation, founded as the charitable arm of the TV academy, provides educational and archival services.

'Other woman' comes to regret spending life with 'other man'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm responding to "The Other Woman, Anywhere, USA" (March 11). Please tell your readers if they find themselves in her shoes, they should RUN in the opposite direction.

My husband, "John," and I both left our spouses to be together. It has been 10 years, and I regret leaving my ex-husband every day. I traded a wonderful marriage for an obnoxious, self-absorbed, arrogant man.

John still spends Christmas Day with his ex and his adult children. He says it's out of guilt. He paid for his daughter's wedding reception with money from our joint account. John went alone. I was "forbidden" to attend.

My "soul mate" usually forgets my birthday, and one year he also "forgot" Christmas. If only I could turn back time. I find myself praying for the end of time and realize I'm probably getting what I deserve.

LIVING WITH REGRET

DEAR LIVING: You letter is a reminder that there is dignity in being alone and filling one's "down time" with good friends and helping the less fortunate. As I expected, "Other Woman's" letter generated a ton of mail. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Your reply to "The Other Woman" was 100 percent right on. I was once in love with a married woman and won her heart. I thought, "All's fair in love and war," and had little regard for her husband. Then I met him.

When I looked into his eyes, I knew what I was doing was wrong and bad karma. Here was a human being with a soul, who loved and trusted his wife, who was true to his marriage vows and trusted her to be true, too. If the situation were reversed, I wouldn't want my wife to have an affair with another man. Spiritually, it was an important and painful lesson.

My advice to married people having an affair is to ask yourselves how you would feel if you were being cheated on. Do the right thing. Honesty and integrity matter.

FORMER OTHER MAN, ANYWERE, USA

DEAR ABBY: I was the other woman for six years. It has taken me a year to realize how unhealthy the relationship was for me. Not only did it damage my self-esteem, but the guilt became unbearable. I wish I could go back and undo what I have done. Luckily, I now have someone who cares about me and accepts me—flaws and all—and loves me for who I am all the time, not just one or two hours a week.

WISER NOW IN VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: I was the other woman. Over time I have come to understand that I believed what I wanted to believe because I was lonely, needy and vulnerable. I learned as time went on that my lover was incapable of developing a mature, responsible and meaningful relationship. I experienced the calamitous consequences emotionally, psychologically and financially—as did our child.

Through counseling, friendships and networking with other women and getting to know myself in a rigorously honest way, I became too healthy to be the other woman. I'm now in the marriage I always dreamed of to a man with character and heart, who is devoted to me and "our" child. I learned that the right man would find me when I became the person he was looking for. It wasn't easy, but it was worth it.

FINALLY FULFILLED

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for the letter from "The Other Woman" and your reply. I have been divorced 12 years and involved with a married man for more than a year. The affair has been lonely, degrading, unfulfilling and a real self-esteem buster.

Your answer reminded me of what I have always known. Because of it, I have decided to end my affair and get back into the real world. I hope "Other Woman" wakes up and does the same. And soon.

GRATEFUL IN ALABAMA

READERS: More tomorrow!

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WELL, MOM'S SURE TO HAVE FOUND THE CAR BY NOW AND GUESSED WHAT WE DID.
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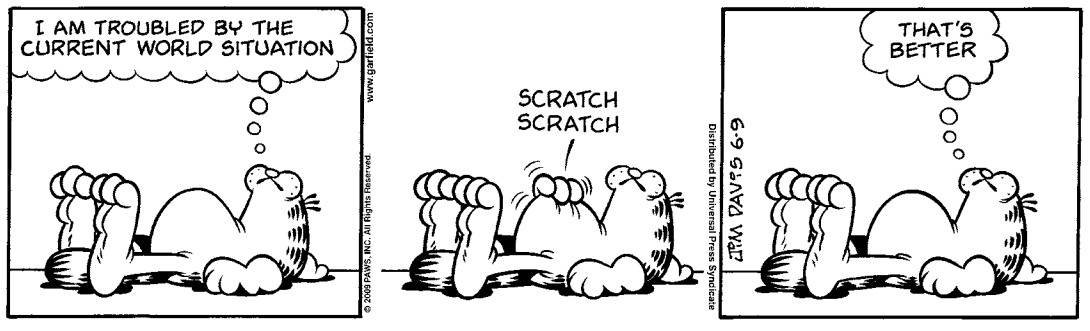
NOW I KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN.
6/9

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I AM TROUBLED BY THE CURRENT WORLD SITUATION
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SCRATCH SCRATCH
THAT'S BETTER
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 6-9

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT CAN I GET YOU?
DO YOU THINK I'M TOO OLD TO WEAR A HOCKEY JERSEY?
NO WAY. GOTTA SUPPORT THE TEAM.
I LIKE THE WAY YOU THINK. ONE LATTE, PLEASE.
AND KEEP THE CHANGE.
MAKING SOMEONE FEEL GOOD AND A NICE TIP. LIFE IS GOOD.
THE TOILET'S OVERFLOWING! SOMEONE GET A MOP! OH, THE HUMANITY!
AND BACK TO EARTH.
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6-9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

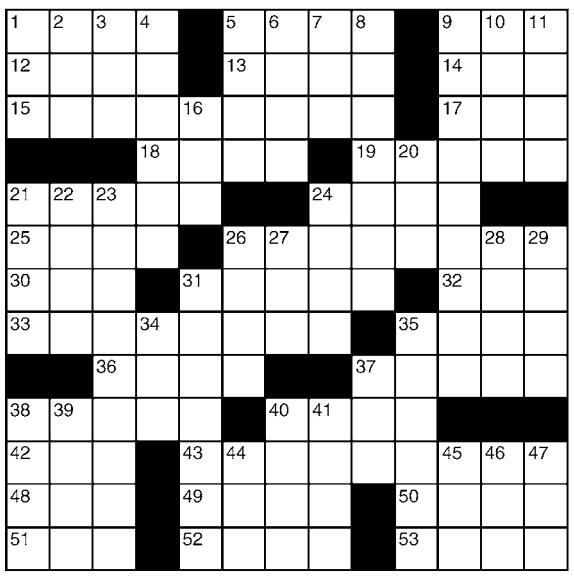
ACROSS
1 Out of the storm
5 "Little Women" woman
9 Silent
12 Lion's share
13 Turkish title
14 "SNL" alum Gasteyer
15 Janitor's gadget
17 Feminine side
18 Charged bits
19 Impressively high
21 "Saturday Night Fever" venue
24 Repast
25 Some deer
26 Online talk site
30 $ dispenser
31 Actress Jessica et al.
32 Path
33 Post-WW II birthrate increase
35 Nuisance
36 After all?
37 Country star Brooks
38 Memorable mission
40 "— she blows!"
42 Crib
43 truTV's "Open Court" anchor
48 Fond du —, Wis.
49 Lab vessel
50 Met melody
51 Before
52 Hibernia
53 Shrill bark

DOWN
1 Pump up the volume
2 Dobbs of CNN
3 Curvy character
4 Morals
5 Farm building
6 Hollywood clashers
7 Yet, in verse
8 Villages
9 Carrier of 1620
10 One
11 Much more than one
16 Greet the villain
20 Rowing need
21 Colorless
22 Teeny bit
23 Modicum
24 Sir counterpart
26 Coagulate
27 Showtime rival
28 Tobacco oven
29 Legend
31 Exculpate
34 Sweet potato
35 Bet the previous winnings
37 Chatter away
38 Competent
39 Storyteller
40 Despot
41 Robust
44 Grandson, maybe
45 Raw rock
46 Lubricant
47 Chart

Solution time: 21 mins.

I	D	E	S	■	A	G	E	■	C	A	L	M
F	O	G	H	O	R	N	S	■	A	R	I	A
S	H	O	R	T	C	U	T	■	M	E	E	T
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	R	H	E	S	U	S
C	E	L	L	O	■	S	O	U	R	■	■	■
A	M	Y	L	■	P	A	G	E	A	N	T	■
P	U	N	■	S	A	G	E	S	■	E	A	T
■	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	■	M	A	X	I
■	■	■	R	A	P	S	■	E	E	R	I	E
L	E	N	G	T	H	■	A	N	T	■	■	■
A	R	E	A	■	L	O	N	G	H	A	I	R
M	I	E	N	■	E	V	E	R	Y	D	A	Y
B	E	D	S	■	T	A	W	■	L	A	M	E

Yesterday's answer 6-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Natalie Portman, 28; Johnny Depp, 46; Michael J. Fox, 48; Dick Vitale, 70

Happy Birthday: Subtlety will be what works for you this year. Keep a low profile while you work things out. You can then use impact and surprise when you are ready to present something you know has the potential to go the distance. Build a strong base and you will protect your assets, family and future. Your numbers are 2, 6, 18, 23, 26, 32, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep your thoughts to yourself, especially those of an emotional nature. An interesting relationship with someone you work or study with will make you question your current status and the relationships you have. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You really need to get away and enjoy life a little more. Plan your next vacation or even just a weekend getaway. Set the record straight and let others know what you want, need and will give back. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't brag about what you've accomplished or how much you have. Instead, work quietly and build your assets. There is money to be made and paperwork to be finished before you can celebrate. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotions will be high and love can develop quickly and lead to an interesting change in your personal life. Getting involved in something you enjoy will motivate you to live life fully. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be up against an enormous task that will have you wondering what you are doing. Don't despair: If you stick it out, you will prove why you are considered to be a leader. There is plenty to gain if you are true to yourself. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You have everything going for you except the belief that you can do what you say and want. Stop comparing yourself to others and focus on pulling things together. A connection you make while networking or presenting will let you know you are on the right track. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Money matters should concern you. If someone you love is taking advantage of your generosity, put an end to it. If you are depending on someone else's financial assistance, prepare to take care of your own needs. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stop holding yourself back by putting yourself down. You are the only one criticizing your accomplishments, making it difficult for you to grow and develop emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Don't ignore the possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A little effort will go a long way. A relationship you want to develop will teach you a lesson about human nature. If you exaggerate about what you can do, you will look bad when you don't deliver. Make plans and follow them. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Reveal your thoughts and feelings and you can resolve a lot of bothersome personal issues. Love is on the rise and much can be established regarding your personal life and future. Base changes on what has and hasn't worked in the past. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put more effort into what you say and do to help others and you will get back far more than you expect. A chance to help others will enlighten you about your own past and where you see yourself heading in the future. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An old friend, colleague or lover will be able to help you find a new approach to something you wanted to do many years ago. A partnership you never thought could work will fall into place and move forward smoothly. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You know how to challenge others and how to accept challenges yourself. You are dedicated, loyal, see matters through to the end and like to be in control.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9					1			
	6	3						4
2					4		7	
6	5					3	1	7
			6	7	9			
8	4	7					2	6
	8		4					5
3						2	4	
			5					9

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	5	6	8	9	2	3	4
4	8	3	7	2	1	6	5	9
9	2	6	4	5	3	8	1	7
1	9	8	5	7	6	4	2	3
2	3	4	1	9	8	5	7	6
5	6	7	3	4	2	1	9	8
6	5	9	8	1	7	3	4	2
3	4	2	9	6	5	7	8	1
8	7	1	2	3	4	9	6	5

Difficulty Level ★ 6/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ST. ANDREW'S GOLF COURSE **Solution: 8 letters**

T	S	I	R	U	O	T	Y	A	R	D	A	G	E	D
(N)	O	I	T	A	L	U	G	E	R	O	Y	A	L	E
P	(E)	U	E	V	I	T	C	N	I	T	S	I	D	M
R	M	(P)	R	W	G	O	V	E	R	N	I	N	G	E
A	N	U	(O)	N	G	C	L	U	B	H	O	U	S	E
F	O	L	R	N	A	M	E	N	I	T	Y	K	S	T
F	S	N	I	Y	E	M	N	E	D	E	I	C	T	S
O	A	Z	W	H	H	E	E	E	C	L	O	N	A	E
R	E	F	T	O	A	T	U	N	L	L	O	I	N	E
D	S	E	S	O	T	N	A	Q	T	M	R	T	D	L
A	L	E	T	R	L	R	D	R	R	O	R	L	A	I
B	O	S	A	I	R	L	U	I	T	A	I	O	R	B
L	P	V	N	O	O	S	A	C	C	S	G	N	D	U
E	E	K	T	H	T	F	I	B	R	A	N	G	E	J
L	S	T	I	S	I	V	D	E	S	O	P	X	E	E

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Affordable, Amenity, Ballot, Cart, Clubhouse, Colt, Distinctive, Eden, Esteemed, Exposed, Fairmont, Fees, Governing, Handicap, Hold, Jubilee, Links, Long, Open, Queen, Range, Recognized, Regulation, Royal, Season, Skill, Slope, Slow, Standard, Strathyrum, Torrance, Tourist, Tournament, Town, Travel, Trust, Victoria, Visit, Yardage

Yesterday's Answer: Exercises

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DRACULA DRAWN

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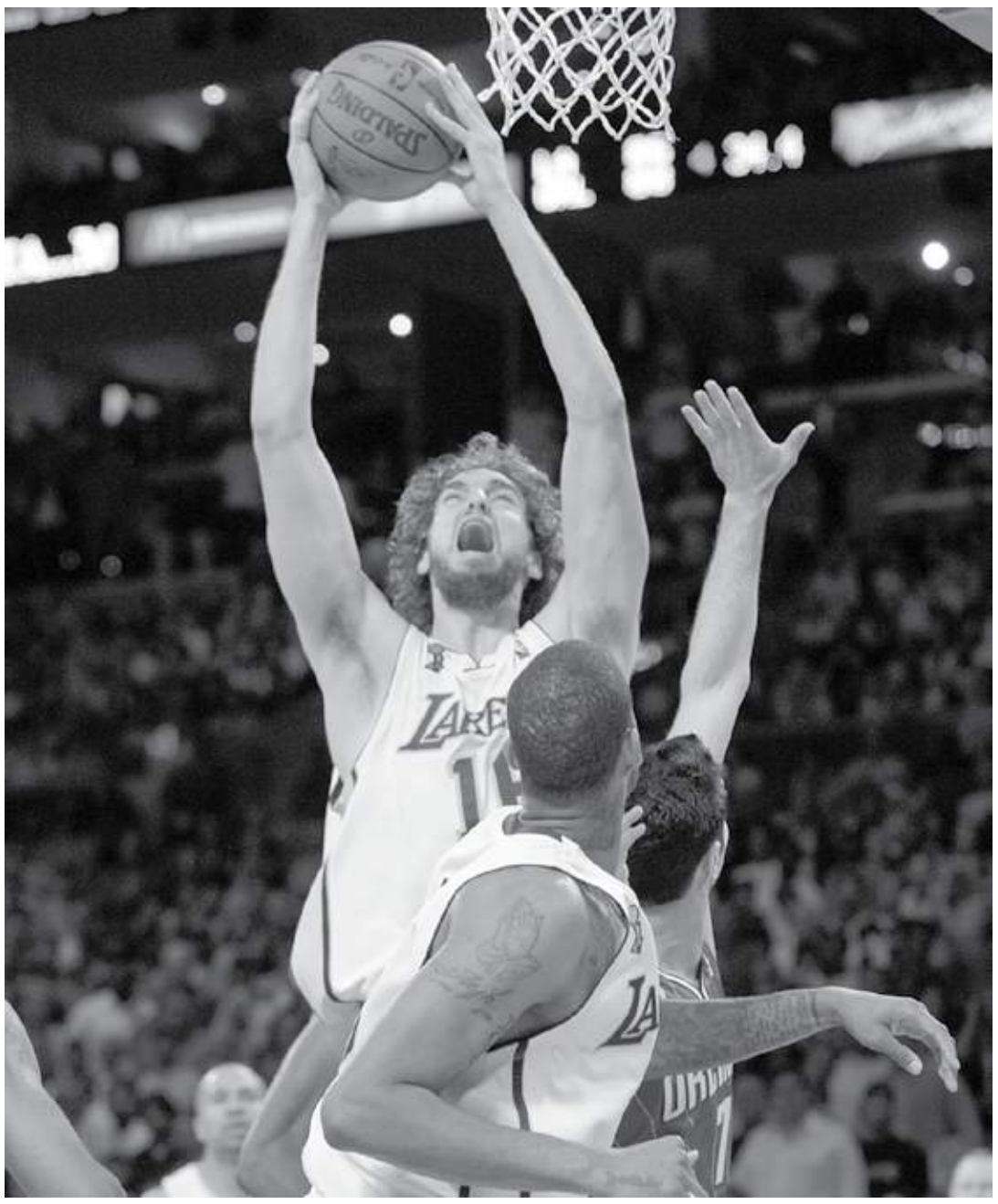
Lakers hang on for 101-96 win in Game 2



AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16) of Spain, puts up a key shot in the final seconds of the second half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball finals against the Orlando Magic Sunday, June 7, 2009, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lucky to have a second chance, the Los Angeles Lakers grabbed it.

Kobe Bryant and Co. held on and are in control of the NBA finals—just barely.

Orlando rookie Courtney Lee missed a potential winning layup as regulation ended, giving Los Angeles another shot it didn't waste. Pau Gasol scored seven points in overtime as the Lakers, so dominant in the series opener, survived with a 101-96 win over the Magic in Game 2 on Sunday night.

"There is a sense of relief because they played very well," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "There's no doubt they had every opportunity or chance to win."

If Orlando doesn't come back and win this series, Lee's miss may go down as one of the biggest gaffes in finals history. He had a chance to give the Magic its first finals win.

"We missed it. I don't know what else to say," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "We executed well, Hedo (Turkoglu) made a great pass. I'm not trying to be a pain ... Hedo made a great pass and he just missed it."

Orlando may not get a better shot to beat the Lakers.

"We blew a lot of assignments tonight—a lot of assignments—and we still managed to get a win," Bryant said.

When it was finally over, Derek Fisher and the Lakers jogged to the locker room, smiling and high-fiving fans along the way.

Turkoglu trudged through the tunnel dejected, a towel hanging from his head.

Bryant scored 29 points, Gasol added 24 and 10 rebounds and Lamar Odom 19 points for the Lakers, who won Game 1 by 25 but needed 53 minutes to put away the Magic.

Rashard Lewis scored 34—18 in the second quarter alone—and Dwight Howard had 17 points and 16 rebounds for Orlando.

Game 3 is Tuesday night at Orlando's Amway Arena, which will be hosting a finals game for the first time since June 9, 1995.

With the score tied at 88-88 in regulation, Lee missed the first of two late-game shots when he drove the lane and missed a contested layup with 10.5 seconds remaining.

The Lakers called time with 9.1 seconds to play, and after Odom caught the inbounds pass, he quickly gave it to Bryant, who drove into a crowd. Bryant attempted an off-balance 12-footer, but his shot was blocked from behind by Turkoglu with 1.8 seconds left.

The horn sounded, the clock expired to zeros and Jack Nicholson and the star-studded Staples Center crowd braced for overtime.

But the officials huddled at the scorer's table and decided to put 0.6 seconds back on the clock because Turkoglu grabbed the ball and called timeout.

Turkoglu couldn't find anyone open on the inbounds and was forced to call another timeout. On the Magic's second attempt, Lee got free on a perfectly executed play and caught Turkoglu's long lob pass as he neared the left side of the basket. But with 7-foot Gasol closing in on him, Lee's shot caromed off the backboard and front of the rim.

Howard dunked in the miss as Lee put his hands behind his head in disbelief and began a long walk back to the bench as his teammates tried to console him.

So close. So far.

Fourteen years to the day after the Magic let Game 1 of the 1995 finals against Houston get away when Orlando's Nick Anderson missed four late free throws, Lee provided another excruciating moment for the franchise.

The Magic, who looked more relaxed than in the opener, will head home thinking about what might have been. They could be tied 1-1, and with the next three games scheduled in front of their frenzied fans, they could have denied Bryant and the Lakers a 15th title.

Now, in a season of comebacks, they'll need their biggest one.

Bryant, who scored 40 in the opener, finished with eight assists and seven turnovers.

Lewis transformed into Orlando's version of Bryant in the second quarter, scoring 18 of the Magic's 20 points to keep them close. The 6-foot-10 forward's size and exceptional range make him an impossible cover, and the Lakers had no answer to stop him.

With Howard unable to get open and Orlando's other shooters still searching for their touch, Lewis carried the scoring load. He made four consecutive 3-pointers to end the half and the Magic, despite shooting just 32 percent, were within 38-35 at the break.

If not for Lewis, Orlando would have been in big trouble because Howard was hopeless.

For a long stretch, Superman was more like The Invisible Man.

At times, it seemed as if there were six or seven Lakers on the floor as they swarmed Howard, who made just 1 of 4 shots and had four turnovers.

Before the game, Jackson predicted that Game 2 would follow a different script than the series' Hollywood premiere.

"This game is not going to be like the last game," said the nine-time NBA champion. "It probably won't resemble the last game at all except the players that are on the floor."

He was so right.

NFL BRIEFS

Manning satisfied with answers on coaching staff

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Peyton Manning is satisfied with what he's hearing from the Colts about the roles of retired assistants Tom Moore and Howard Mudd. Ten days after complaining about the uncertainty of Indianapolis' coaching staff, Manning said on Friday that he has a better understanding of the situation and will move on. Though Manning still doesn't have all the answers, he realizes team president Bill Polian and coach Jim Caldwell don't either. The three-time league MVP and one-time Super Bowl winner met with Polian and Caldwell between media appearances. Apparently, that was enough to prompt Manning to say he has a better grasp of what's going on. Manning spoke as the Colts opened their first day of a mandatory minicamp that runs this weekend.

Report: Favre had surgery on shoulder

Brett Favre recently had arthroscopic surgery on his ailing right shoulder, ESPN reported Sunday night, another indication the three-time NFL MVP is considering coming out of retirement. ESPN, citing two anonymous sources, reported that Favre had surgery last month to repair the torn biceps tendon that bothered him late last season with the New York Jets. Favre retired in February, but the Jets released him at his request in April—making him a free agent. A message was left with Favre's agent Bus Cook seeking comment. According to the report, Favre has thrown on a limited basis since the surgery, but isn't close to 100 percent. A source told ESPN the quarterback wouldn't return "unless he makes significant progress." Minnesota said it would be interested in Favre if he comes out of retirement. (AP)

Eagles RB Westbrook undergoes ankle surgery

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Eagles running back Brian Westbrook had surgery on his right ankle on Friday and is expected to be ready for the regular season. The procedure was done in Baltimore by specialist Dr. Mark Myerson. He removed scar tissue and bone fragments from the ankle, which Westbrook initially hurt last season in Week 3 against Pittsburgh. "Brian is doing well, he texted us and said he's doing well," trainer Rick Burkholder said. "We feel pretty comfortable that he'll be back by the beginning of the season. Whether he'll be back for training camp or not, it's too early to tell." Veterans are scheduled to report to camp July 29. This is the second offseason surgery for Westbrook, who also had his left knee cleaned out shortly after the Eagles lost to Arizona in the NFC championship game.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA awards 2011 All-Star game to Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NBA All-Star game will return to Los Angeles for a record fifth time in 2011. Commissioner David Stern made the announcement Sunday before Game 2 of the NBA finals between the Lakers and Orlando Magic. The 60th game will be played Feb. 20 at Staples Center, also the site of the 2004 game. The city also hosted the game in 1963 at the Sports Arena, and at the Forum in suburban Inglewood in 1972 and '83, when Marvin Gaye performed a memorable version of the national anthem. Staples Center will be the site of the Rookie Challenge, Youth Jam and All-Star Saturday Night. The All-Star Jam Session, an interactive fan experience, will be staged at the convention center next door. By 2011, a 54-story, 1,001-room complex that includes two hotels and 224 luxury condos will be completed, giving the NBA additional space across the street from Staples Center. In 2004, Lakers teammates Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant combined for 44 points to give the Western Conference a 136-132 victory over the East. O'Neal earned MVP honors. Dallas is hosting the 2010 game. This year's event was in Phoenix, where O'Neal and Bryant shared the MVP award and helped the West beat the East 146-119.

Raptors hire Iavaroni as assistant to Triano

TORONTO (AP)—The Raptors have hired former Memphis Grizzlies coach Marc Iavaroni as an assistant to Jay Triano and are parting ways with assistants Mike Evans and Gord Herbert. The Raptors also announced on Friday that Alex English will return for his sixth season with Toronto, his eighth as an NBA assistant. English, who played 16 seasons in the NBA, is the 12th leading scorer in league history and a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame. Iavaroni was an assistant in Phoenix, Miami and Cleveland before taking over Memphis on May 30, 2007. He was fired on Jan. 22, 2009, following a 13-26 start. Evans, a former Denver assistant, spent two seasons with the Raptors, while Herbert was with Toronto for just one season.

Former NBA star Randy Smith dies at 60

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Randy Smith, a blindingly fast All-Star with the Buffalo Braves in the 1970s who once held the NBA record for consecutive games, died while working out on a treadmill. He was 60. He had a massive heart attack Thursday while exercising at the Connecticut casino where he worked, son-in-law Lekan Bashua told The Associated Press on Friday. Smith was pronounced dead at William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. The Mohegan Sun Casino declined to comment on circumstances surrounding the death, citing medical confidentiality laws. Jack Ramsay, Smith's coach in Buffalo, called the 6-foot-3 guard the best athlete he ever coached. "He had stamina, great speed and developed into a very good player," Ramsay said Friday from the NBA finals in Los Angeles. "And was so fun to be around. There was not a bad day in Randy's life." Smith was drafted by the Braves in the seventh round in 1971 and averaged more than 13 points in his rookie season. He went on to play 13 years in the NBA and appeared in 906 consecutive games from 1972-83. His mark was broken by A.C. Green in 1997.

Tiger tops the Memorial with late charge

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Two holes, two towering shots, two clutch birdies. Just like that, Tiger Woods broke out of a four-way tie and won the Memorial on Sunday with a 7-under 65 to cap off a high-charged comeback. And just as suddenly, he silenced the skeptics who wondered if he was ready to defend his title in the U.S. Open in two weeks at Bethpage Black.

"I knew I could do this," Woods said after birdies on the final two holes gave him a one-shot victory. "I was close to winning, but the game wasn't quite there when I really needed it on Sunday. I rectified that."

First came a 9-iron at No. 17 that Woods launched as high as he could, allowing the ball to land softly on the top shelf of a rock-hard green for a 9-foot birdie putt. More brilliance followed on the 18th, when Woods hit a 7-iron from 183 yards that stopped a foot from the hole, wrapping up his fourth title at Muirfield Village.

Then came a bold observation by tournament host Jack Nicklaus. He had said earlier in the week that Woods, with 14 career majors, would probably break his record of 18 majors in a couple of years.

"I suspect No. 15 will come for Tiger Woods in about two weeks," Nicklaus said at the trophy presentation. "If he drives the ball this way, and plays this way, I'm sure it will. And if not, it will surprise me greatly."

There were no surprises Sunday for Woods, the best sign of all.

He hit the ball where he was aiming and found every fairway in the final round, the first time he had done that on the PGA Tour in more than five years. He missed only five fairways all week, his best performance off the tee since the 1998 Masters.

"It was nice to play this well going into the U.S. Open," Woods said. "This is how you have to hit it in order to win U.S. Opens."

He managed to work in some of Muirfield Village magic along the way, surging into contention by chipping in for eagle from a nasty lie in thick rough behind the 11th green.

"I don't even know how to describe it," said Michael Letzig, who played with Woods. "It was the best golf I'd ever seen."

Jim Furyk, part of the four-way tie on the back nine, made a 20-foot birdie putt on the final hole that gave him a 69 and allowed him to finish alone in second. Furyk is close friends in Woods, and had been hearing the speculation that Woods was not the same.

"I just wish you all would just quick (ticking) him off ... so he has to come back and keep proving stuff," Furyk said. "I think he answered a lot of questions today."

AP

Jack Nicklaus, left, and Tiger Woods pose with the trophy after Woods won the Memorial golf tournament Sunday, June 7, 2009 in Dublin, Ohio. Woods won with a 12-under 276.

Woods finished at 12-under 276 and won for the 67th time in his career. The timing could not have been better. He was within one shot of the lead going in to the back nine at Quail Hollow and made nothing better than par for a 72. He played in the final group at The Players Championship, couldn't find a fairway and closed with a 73.

On a firm, fast course under steamy sunshine at Muirfield Village, he was close to perfect.

"It wasn't just the last two holes, it was all week," Woods said. "I felt comfortable hitting it left-to-right, right-to-left. Didn't have a problem taking the ball up in the air or bringing it down. That's what I was looking for. That's what I was able to do at home in my practice sessions, and now it's just a matter of carrying it out here onto a tournament venue and doing it."

After a bogey from the bunker on the 16th, Woods was tied with Furyk, Jonathan Byrd and Davis Love III.

But not for long.

His two final birdies gave him a cushion, and no one could catch him.

Byrd had the best chance to catch Woods. Two shots behind, he hit his approach to 4 feet on the 17th, but missed the birdie putt. Byrd finished with a meaningless double bogey for a 72 and tied for third with Mark Wilson (73).

Love, who could have avoided 36-hole U.S. Open qualifying Monday with a victory, got into contention with consecutive birdie putts of about 50 feet, only to miss an 8-foot birdie try on the 15th. He fell out of the hunt with a bogey from the fairway bunker on the 17th, then hitting his tee shot into the water on the 18th and closing with a triple bogey.

Matt Bettencourt, the PGA Tour rookie who started the final round tied with Wilson, held his own for seven holes until a three-putt bogey, followed by a chunked wedge into the water for a double bogey. He closed with a 75 and tied for fifth.

Letzig had never experienced such an environment as playing with Woods in the final round.

"I've never seen anyone hit irons like that," Letzig said. "I tried not to watch him, but some of those shots were unreal."

Woods' driving set up those iron shots. The fairways at Muirfield Village are among the most generous, but he wasn't close to missing them and often set himself up on the right side to attack the pins.

"I don't know why everyone talks about how bad he drives it," Letzig said. "Every drive I saw was perfect."

Dodgers homer wins it in 12th over Phillies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Andre Ethier hit his second homer of the game with two outs in the 12th inning to give the Los Angeles Dodgers a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in the National League on Saturday.

In a meeting between two NL divisional leaders, Philadelphia closer Brad Lidge gave up a tying home run to pinch-hitter Rafael Furcal in the ninth inning for his second blown save in less than 24 hours.

Brewers 3, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Prince Fielder's third two-homer game of the season gave Milwaukee all the runs it needed for a win over punchless Atlanta.

The Brewers took their second straight shutout win over Atlanta and extended the Braves' streak of scoreless innings to 22. Atlanta has lost three straight.

Reds 4, Cubs 3, 11 innings

In Cincinnatti, Jay Bruce scored from third base in the 11th inning when Mike Fontenot's throw home was high, giving Cincinnatti a win over Chicago.

Bruce walked to lead off the 11th, then went to second on a wild pitch and advanced to third on a sacrifice fly. After an intentional walk, pinch-hitter Adam Rosales hit a chopper to Fontenot, the third baseman. His throw to home was high, allowing Bruce to score the winning run on the fielder's choice.

Marlins 5, Giants 4

In Miami, Hanley Ramirez hit two of Florida's five doubles, leading Florida over San Francisco.

Down 5-2, the Giants loaded the bases in the ninth. Reliever Leo Nunez gave up Aaron Rowand's two-run single before striking out Edgar Renteria to end it.

Rockies 10, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Ian Stewart homered twice and matched a career high with five RBIs as Colorado spanked St. Louis.

Stewart hit a three-run shot on a full count in the fourth and a two-run shot in the sixth.

Pirates 6, Astros 4

In Houston, Paul Maholm pitched seven innings and drove in a run with an infield single, leading Pittsburgh over Houston.

The Pirates snapped a five-game losing streak at the Astros' ballpark and moved 1-1/2 games ahead of Houston in the fight to avoid last place in the NL Central.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 4

In San Diego, Tony Gwynn Jr. reached base a career-high five times and scored the go-ahead run in the six-run sixth inning to help San Diego overcome Arizona and snap a four-game losing streak.

Gwynn had a career-high three walks, a single, double and a stolen base.

Nationals 7, Mets 1

In Washington, John Lannan pitched his first career complete game to lead Washington over New York.

Lannan allowed one unearned run, facing the minimum number of batters through the first seven innings. He was helped out by a franchise-record-tying five double plays.

Rangers 6, Red Sox

At Boston, Nelson Cruz homered, tripled and doubled, helping the Texas Rangers beat the Boston Red Sox for their first series win at Fenway Park in 12 years.

Texas took two of three in a matchup of AL division leaders. Boston dropped a half-game behind the New York Yankees in the AL East.

Yankees 4, Rays 3

At New York, Mariano Rivera bounced back from a poor outing against Tampa Bay as the Yankees rallied for three runs in the eighth inning.

Nick Swisher hit the 100th home run in 28 games at the new Yankee Stadium, helping Joe Girardi earn his 200th win as a manager. Alfredo Aceves (4-1) pitched two scoreless innings in New York's major league-leading 20th comeback victory this season.

Blue Jays 4, Royals 0

At Toronto, Roy Halladay pitched a seven-hitter to become the first 10-game winner in the majors.

Aaron Hill and Lyle Overbay homered for the Blue Jays, who won two of three in the series.

Tigers 9, Angels 6

At Detroit, Clete Thomas' grand slam broke an eighth-inning tie as Detroit took advantage of a key error by first baseman Kendry Morales to beat Los Angeles.

The Tigers have won two straight after losing the first four games of their six-game homestand.

Indians 8, White Sox 4

At Chicago, rookies Chris Gimenez and Luis Valbuena hit consecutive homers off former Cleveland ace Bartolo Colon.

Victor Martinez and Shin-Soo Choo also hit back-to-back homers off Colon (3-6), helping the Indians win a road series for only the second time this season.

Athletics 3, Orioles 0

At Oakland, California, Vin Mazzaro pitched into the eighth inning as Oakland scored its season-high sixth straight win.

After Adam Jones led off the game with a single, Mazzaro (2-0) retired 15 of his next 16 hitters—an impressive showing for his second career start. He won his major league debut last Tuesday at Chicago.

Mariners 4, Twins 2

At Seattle, Jose Lopez homered and drove in two runs, leading Erik Bedard and Seattle past Minnesota.

Russell Branyan and Jamie Burke also homered for the Mariners, who took two of three from the Twins and have won three consecutive series. Lopez finished with three hits, including an RBI double.

FEDERER

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happened," the second-seeded Federer said. "It's funny. I didn't hope for it. But I believed in it."

Only 7-13 against Nadal, Federer entered Sunday 9-0 against Soderling and, other than the threat of postponement because of rain, there was never any doubt that would become 10-0 by day's end.

That's because Federer showed off the athleticism and artistry that carried him to five championships at Wimbledon, the last five at the U.S. Open and three at the Australian Open. Federer hit more aces than Soderling, 16-2. He broke Soderling four times. He won 40 of the first 47 points on his serve. He won five points with delicate drop shots.

Federer was outstanding at the start, taking a 4-0 lead, and close to perfect in the tiebreaker. That was Soderling's chance to get into the match, but Federer wouldn't allow it: The Swiss star served four points—and all four were aces, ranging from 118 mph to 132 mph.

Federer called it "one of the greatest tiebreakers in my career."

Soderling never really stood a chance, not against Federer, not on this day, not on this stage.

"You really gave me a lesson in how to play tennis," Soderling told Federer.

This was Federer's 19th Grand Slam final, equaling Ivan Lendl's record, and Soderling's first. Soderling not only shocked Nadal—and the entire tennis world—but also beat No. 10 Nikolay Davydenko, No. 12 Fernando Gonzalez and No. 14 David Ferrer.

"Every time I played Roger, after the match, I always said, 'I played so bad today.' Now I learned that it's not that I played bad," Soderling said. "He makes me play bad."

For only two moments was Federer the least bit shaken: As the last few points were played—victory tantalizingly close—and during a bizarre and worrisome episode when a man jumped over the photographer's pit and ran on the court.

It happened after the first point at 2-1 in the second set, and the intruder went right up to Federer and tried to put a red hat on him. Federer brushed the man aside before security guards even got close enough to intervene. After hopping the net, the man was tackled and jailed for questioning.

"A touch scary," Federer said, lamenting he didn't ask for a chance to gather himself. "It definitely felt uncomfortable once he came close to me. Looking back, it definitely threw me out of my rhythm a little bit."

Federer looked up at his pregnant wife, Mirka, and adjusted his headband, but soon was playing again. He lost that game at love, then quickly settled back into a groove.

Until, that is, the countdown to a championship had gone from matches to sets to games to points.

Waiting in his changeover chair at 5-4 in the third set, Federer shook his legs to stay loose and took a few sips of water, then wiped his face with a towel. Stepping back on court to try to serve out the match, he was churning inside.

"You can imagine how difficult that game was," Federer said. "It was almost unplayable for me."

He put a forehand into the net. He sailed a backhand long. He shanked a swinging forehand volley 3 feet beyond the baseline to give Soderling a break point.

"My mind was always wondering, 'What if? What if I win this tournament?'" Federer said.

He gathered himself, of course, and won the next three points—the last three points of a tournament that meant so much to Federer.

For the next 40 minutes, he stayed on that court, relishing it instead of dreading it. Federer accepted the trophy from Andre Agassi, whose 1999 French Open title made him the last man with a full set of Grand Slam trophies.

"I'm so happy for you, man," Agassi told Federer. Later, Agassi said: "Roger has earned his place, his rightful place, in the game, and winning here was just something that would have been a bit of a crime if he never did."

Federer won three major titles each in 2004, 2006 and 2007, but 2008 was a struggle by his—and only his—lofty standards. Slowed by mononucleosis, he lost in last year's Australian Open semifinals—the only one of the past 16 Grand Slam tournaments at which Federer didn't reach the final. He absorbed the most lopsided Grand Slam loss of his career in the 2008 French Open final against Nadal, then lost to Nadal again in the Wimbledon final, 9-7 in the fifth set. He also lost the No. 1 ranking to Nadal, before winning the U.S. Open in September.

Then came another five-set setback against Nadal in this year's Australian Open final, and Federer's anguish was there for the world to see when he wept during the postmatch ceremony.

Four months later, on Sunday, Federer cried on court again. When the Swiss national anthem played for the first time after a French Open men's final, tears rolled down Federer's cheeks, that silver trophy nestled in his arms.

STAAL

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when he competed in the 2009 Guam Championships late last month. Kai's 32.32 seconds in the 50m breaststroke swim is also the new CNMI National Record, crushing Rezne Wong's previous mark of 33.03 seconds listed on Feb. 7, 2009.

Besides Kai, Tsunami Saipan also recognized swimmers who represented the club in various tournaments on and off-island, made records, and had more than 90 percent of practice attendance.

Posting records for CNMI from August 2008 to May 2009 were Wong, Kensuke and Shin Kimura, Kaito and Hiroto Yanai, and Ryosei Toda.

For the 2008 to 2009 season, Tsunami Swimmers joined seven big events, namely the Guam International Meet (December 2008), Junior Pan Pacific Championship (January 2009), SSC Heptathlon (February 2009), Japan Open (February 2009), SSC International Meet (March 2009), Tokyo International Sprints (March 2009), and Guam Championships (May 2009).

Tsunami Saipan had all its swimmers competing in the heptathlon and SSC meet, while the club made selections for off-island tournaments in Guam and Japan.

Tsunami Saipan holds regular practice sessions at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi with eight swimmers consistently attending them, namely Wong, the Kimura brothers, Takumi Sugie and the Toda and Yanai siblings.

Of the eight, Kensuke had the best attendance of 98.40 percent, missing only four practices, followed by Ryosei (97.90 percent) and Kosei (95.90 percent).

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan president Stan Good presented plaques to the Toda siblings and Kensuke.

Coach Hiro Kimura, who volunteers his services to the club, in a message delivered at the awards ceremony said Tsunami Saipan had a great second season, having broken records 64 times and owning 42 marks in the CNMI age group and National record books.

"I hope these achievements will encourage them more to work harder next season and break more records," Kimura said.

Kimura on behalf of Tsunami Saipan also thanked the following for supporting the club: DFS, American Red Cross, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, Marianas Resort, *Saipan Tribune*, Island Apparel, McDonald's, Azuma Co., Ltd., Top Notch, Japan Swimming Federation, Shizuoka Swimming Association, Guam Swimming Federation, Tsunami Swim Club Guam, and the parents of Tsunami Saipan swimmers.

BOG

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White, who was accompanied by his son, FIBA international referee Gabriel White.

"This is just one of our many community projects that we'd been giving back to the community and we've decided that the tournament should benefit in one of our donations," said Tomokane.

Michael A. White, for his part, said the donation will come a long way in helping BANMI cover the cost of organizing the regional event. He also thanked Tomokane and BoG for their kind donation.

"We're very, very grateful for the Bank of Guam for their support. They're one of our oldest business organizations in the community and they've always been a very strong supporter of athletics here in the CNMI. We're extremely grateful for their support," he said.

The 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament will run from June 20 to 28 and feature the men's and women's teams of Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Guam, and host CNMI.

Tahiti, Palau, and Fiji originally committed to send their men's and women's teams to the event, but pulled out at the last minute, citing financial reasons.

The addition of Bank of Guam brings to seven the number of sponsors for the tournament. It joins gold sponsors Shell Marianas, DFS Galleria Saipan, Joeten, IT&E, and Tan Holdings. McDonald's Saipan earlier donated $2,000 for the tourney.

The 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament will run from June 20 to 28 and BANMI said additional sponsorships are still available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament.

For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact BANMI president Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or Michael A. White at 234-6547.

NMASA

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Sept. 21 to Oct. 2.

Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes, during the NMASA meeting, said funding is a major concern, as NMA is also sending athletes to the Oceania Regional Championships 2009 in Gold Coast, Australia this August. Barnes, however, said he will meet with the NMA board to discuss the possibility of sending athletes to Cook Islands.

Refaluwasch Golfers Association president Jordon Kosam also shows concern about the cost of the trip, but said he will relay NMASA's invitation to his fellow golfers.

Sailing's Tony Stearns, who last year begged off from joining the Mini SPG due to personal concerns, missed last week's meeting and has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune's* email.

The cost for the Mini Games trip this year is around the same amount spent ($3,200) in last year's Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa in 2007.

White added NMASA can pay a portion of the cost, just like what it did in the past Mini Games and SPG.

"We will subsidize a portion of the cost of participation in Cook Islands since we all know we are experiencing economic problems. The NMASA board will meet and then decide the amount of financial assistance to be given to athletes representing the CNMI to the Mini Games," White said.

White is asking athletics, sailing, and golf to at least submit names of athletes to the organizing committee in two or three weeks time.

"All athletes listed do not necessarily have to go to Cook Islands, but those not on the list will not be allowed to compete," said the NMASA president, who also asked tennis' Jeff Race if Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association is considering sending players to Rarotonga.

Race said no CNMI player has yet to approach NMITA and show interest in the Mini Games, which made tennis as a late addition on the calendar of events. Race added the CNMI netters are busy preparing for the North Pacific Qualifying tournament which will be held in Guam later this month and for the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji next month.

Ji Hoon Heo, who is the best player in the CNMI right now, is not eligible for the Mini Games and will be busy in the next few months campaigning in Junior ITF events.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDING

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	33	23	.589	—
Boston	33	24	.579	1/2
Toronto	32	27	.542	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	29	29	.500	5
Baltimore	24	33	.421	9 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	30	25	.545	—
Minnesota	28	30	.483	3 1/2
Chicago	26	30	.464	4 1/2
Kansas City	24	32	.429	6 1/2
Cleveland	25	34	.424	7

West Division

Texas	33	23	.589	—
Los Angeles	28	27	.509	4 1/2
Seattle	28	29	.491	5 1/2
Oakland	25	30	.455	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	33	22	.600	—
New York	30	25	.545	3
Atlanta	27	28	.491	6
Florida	27	31	.466	7 1/2
Washington	15	40	.273	18

Central Division

Milwaukee	33	24	.579	—
St. Louis	31	26	.544	2
Chicago	28	26	.519	3 1/2
Cincinnati	29	27	.518	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	26	30	.464	6 1/2
Houston	25	30	.455	7

West Division

Los Angeles	39	20	.661	—
San Francisco	29	26	.527	8
San Diego	26	30	.464	11 1/2
Arizona	25	32	.439	13
Colorado	24	32	.429	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 6, Cincinnati 3, 14 innings
Atlanta 8, Milwaukee 7
N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 0
Houston 6, Pittsburgh 4
Colorado 7, St. Louis 2
Arizona 9, San Diego 6, 18 innings
San Francisco 3, Florida 2
Philadelphia 7, L.A. Dodgers 2
Detroit 9, L.A. Angels 6
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3
Toronto 4, Kansas City 0
Texas 6, Boston 3
Cleveland 8, Chicago White Sox 4
Oakland 3, Baltimore 0
Seattle 4, Minnesota 2

THE MEMORIAL SCORES

FINAL ROUND

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) – Scores Sunday after the final round of the $6 million Memorial tournament at the par 72, 7,366-yard Muirfield Village Golf Club course:

Tiger Woods	69-74-68-65–276
Jim Furyk	67-70-71-69–277
Jonathan Byrd	69-68-71-72–280
Mark Wilson	68-70-69-73–280
Matt Kuchar	73-67-71-71–282
Davis Love III	72-68-69-73–282
Matt Bettencourt	71-68-68-75–282
Stewart Cink	68-72-72-71–283
Ernie Els	70-70-71-72–283
Will MacKenzie	70-73-73-68–284
Mike Weir	69-69-75-71–284
Geoff Ogilvy	72-74-63-75–284
K.J. Choi	73-70-72-70–285
Jerry Kelly	72-72-75-67–286
Nick Watney	73-71-74-68–286
Daniel Chopra	72-69-73-72–286
Ryuji Imada	70-69-74-73–286
Chris DiMarco	73-67-73-73–286
Dustin Johnson	73-68-72-73–286
Hunter Mahan	74-69-70-73–286
Luke Donald	64-76-72-74–286
Michael Letzig	72-70-69-75–286
Kevin Sutherland	69-75-73-70–287
Alex Cejka	73-68-73-73–287
Steve Marino	68-72-73-74–287
Bubba Watson	71-71-70-75–287
Kenny Perry	72-73-75-68–288
Woody Austin	75-70-73-70–288
Charl Schwartzel	72-68-77-71–288
Steve Stricker	70-74-73-71–288
Mathew Goggin	73-73-70-72–288
Jason Day	67-73-75-73–288
Rod Pampling	69-71-74-74–288
Camilo Villegas	71-74-73-71–289
Kevin Na	71-72-73-73–289
Ted Purdy	67-79-75-69–290
Richard Sterne	74-71-74-71–290
Jeff Overton	76-69-71-74–290
Jose Maria Olazabal	74-74-68-74–290
Troy Matteson	69-73-71-77–290
Steve Flesch	73-75-74-69–291
Y.E. Yang	73-72-74-72–291
Robert Allenby	72-76-68-75–291
Ben Curtis	71-71-72-77–291
Johnson Wagner	69-74-76-73–292
Tom Lehman	71-74-74-73–292
Lucas Glover	75-69-72-76–292
Jeff Quinney	75-72-74-72–293
Lee Janzen	72-73-75-73–293
Charley Hoffman	71-72-76-74–293
Webb Simpson	73-71-73-76–293
D.J. Trahan	73-74-69-77–293
Ian Poulter	75-71-74-74–294
John Senden	71-74-74-75–294
Martin Kaymer	71-76-72-75–294
Tom Pernice, Jr.	71-74-73-76–294
Rainier Saxton	69-75-72-78–294
Nicholas Thompson	69-75-78-73–295
Zach Johnson	71-73-75-76–295
David Duval	71-74-74-76–295
Marc Leishman	74-74-70-77–295
Steve Lowery	76-71-71-77–295
Brett Quigley	74-73-78-71–296
Tim Herron	75-73-76-72–296
Nick O'Hern	73-73-76-74–296
George McNeill	76-69-75-76–296
Paul Casey	73-70-75-78–296
Chez Reavie	71-74-72-79–296
Jeff Klauk	76-71-79-73–299
Mark Brooks	75-73-76-75–299
Bill Haas	74-72-77-76–299
Stuart Appleby	72-74-76-78–300
D.A. Points	75-70-75-80–300
Scott McCarron	74-74-82-71–301
Marc Turnesa	72-73-78-78–301
Rocco Mediate	73-70-81-78–302
Erik Compton	72-75-74-81–302

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football Festival

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, back row left, and NMASA president Michael White, second left, join adult and youth referees who were instrumental in the success off the spring youth league.

An IFC player uses his body to deflect the ball during their battle for third place with Tan Holdings FC in the boys' U13 division.

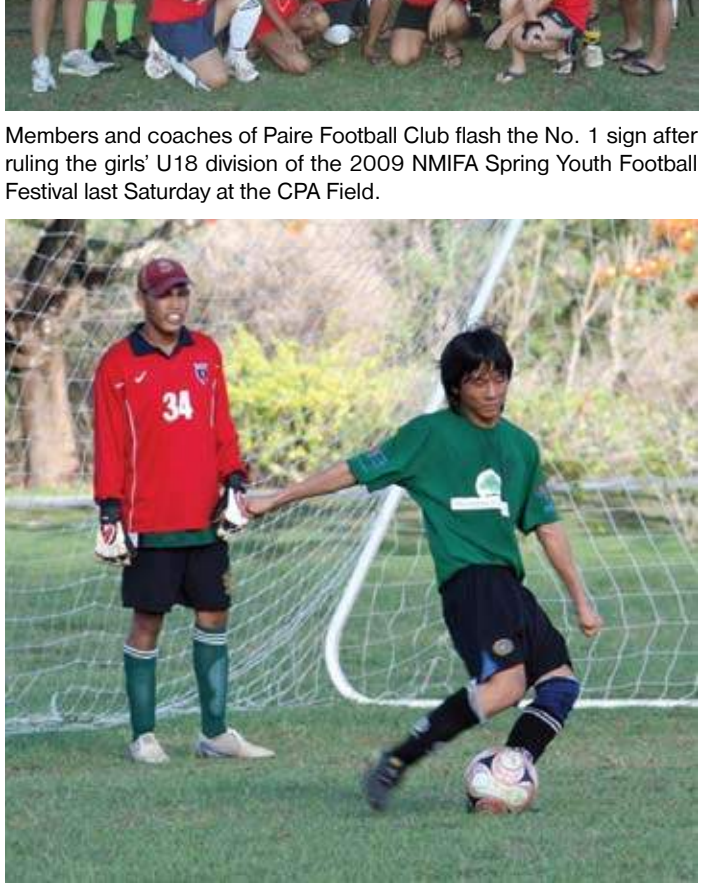
Players in the U8 and U10 age group volunteer to participate in the opening parade for the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football Festival at Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United 1 and 3 players battle for the ball during their title game in the U13 division.

Members and coaches of Paire Football Club flash the No. 1 sign after ruling the girls' U18 division of the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football Festival last Saturday at the CPA Field.

Member of MP United pose for a group photo after beating IFC in the boys' U18 finals, 2-1.

Paire U13 team members pose with their coaches after the opening ceremony of the first weekend of the football festival held on May 30 at Hopwood Junior High School Field.



An IFC U18 player prepares to kick the ball while goalie Nathan Flores looks on.

Tan Holdings FC's Alex Limes tries to keep the ball away from Paire defenders during their consolation game in the boys' U13 division.

IFC (green uniforms) and Matansa (yellow) players in action during their girls' U13 title game.

Tiger wins the Memorial with late charge

Two holes, two towering shots, two clutch birdies. Just like that, Tiger Woods broke out of a four-way tie and won the Memorial on Sunday with a 7-under 65 to cap off a high-charged comeback.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers hang on for 101-96 win in Game 2

Lucky to have a second chance, the Los Angeles Lakers grabbed it. Kobe Bryant and Co. held on and are in control of the NBA finals–just barely.

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Federer wins French Open title

Ties Sampras' career Grand Slam mark of 14

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

Oh, how Roger Federer savored every moment with his first French Open trophy.

He raised it overhead. He cradled it in the crook of his elbow. He closed his eyes and kissed it. He examined the names of other champions etched on its base. Even in a downpour on Court Philippe Chatrier, as heavy, gray clouds blocked any shred of sunlight Sunday, that silver trophy sure seemed to glisten.

Finally, the lone major championship that had eluded Federer was his. With his latest masterful performance, Federer tied Pete Sampras' record of 14 major singles titles and became the sixth man to complete a career Grand Slam.

History was at stake, and Federer was at his best, completely outplaying No. 23-seeded Robin Soderling of Sweden en route to a 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-4 victory in a French Open final that lacked suspense but not significance.

"Maybe my greatest victory—or certainly the one that takes the most pressure off my shoulders," Federer said in French, moments after dropping to his knees, caking them with clay, as his 127 mph service winner ended the match. "I think that now, and until the end of my career, I can really play with my mind at peace and no longer hear that I've never won at Roland Garros."

Federer came heartbreakingly close in the past, losing the previous three French Open finals, so there certainly was something poetic about his tying Sampras' Grand Slam mark at this particular tournament, on this particular court.

"Now that he's won in Paris, I think it just more solidifies his place in history as the greatest player that played the game," Sampras told The Associated Press.

"If there's anyone that deserves it, it's Roger," Sampras said. "He's come so close—lost to one guy who's going to go down as probably the greatest clay-courter of all time."

That would be Rafael Nadal, the man who beat Federer at Roland Garros in the 2006-08 finals and the 2005 semifinals, too. But Nadal's 31-match French Open winning streak ended this year with a fourth-round loss to the hard-hitting Soderling.

"I knew the day Rafa won't be in the finals, I will be there, and I will win. I always knew that, and I believed in it. That's exactly what

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AP

Switzerland's Roger Federer kisses his trophy after defeating Sweden's Robin Soderling in their men's singles final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday June 7, 2009.

Kai Staal is all smiles after receiving the latte stone trophy awarded to the most outstanding Tsunami Saipan swimmer for the 2008-2009 season.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Staal named top Tsunami Saipan swimmer

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Owning 12 CNMI marks to date and shattering records 18 times from August 2008 to May 2009 earned Kai Staal the most outstanding Tsunami Saipan swimmer award.

Staal was named top performer for the 2008-2009 season during Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan' second anniversary celebration at Aqua Resort Club last Saturday.

The 15-year-old son of Mark and Patty Staal holds record in two age groups. Kai has six marks in the boys' 13 to 14 age group (50m free, 100m free, 200m free, and 400m freestyle swim and 50m breaststroke and100m breaststroke).

When he moved to the 15 to 16 age group early this year, Kai quickly made it to the record books. To date, he owns five marks in that age group (50m backstroke, 50m and 200m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, and 50m butterfly), posting four of them just recently

See STAAL on Page 26

BoG donates $2K to FIBA tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bank of Guam became the latest corporate sponsor of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament after donating $2,000 to organizers in a simple ceremony last Friday at the company's office in Garapan.

BoG vice president and CNMI regional manager Marcie M. Tomokane presented the check to Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A.

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MARK RABAGO

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A. White, right, shows off the $2,000 donation of Bank of Guam while shaking the hand of company vice president and CNMI regional manager Marcie M. Tomokane. Looking on is White's son, FIBA international referee Gabriel White.

NMASA wants CNMI athletes in Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is encouraging local sports federations to send participants to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga Cook Islands.

"We have to show our faces there, even if we have to send a small team," NMASA president Michael White during the association's monthly meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

White said missing the Cook Islands Mini Games will have an after effect to CNMI's standing as an active member of the Pacific Games Council.

The NMASA president is hoping golf, athletics, and sailing will take into consideration their participation in the Mini Games, which will run from

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